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Poona Residency Correspondence

Volume 6
Poona Affairs
1797-1801
(Palmer's Embassy)

Edited by
G. S. SARDESAI, B.A.

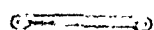
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English Records of Maratha History

Poona Residency Correspondence

General Editor—Sir Jadunath Sarkar



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General William Palmer and his family

INTRODUCTION

1. *Momentous changes.*—The first volume of "Poona Affairs" ended with the resignation of Sir Charles Malet in February 1797. He was succeeded by Col. William Palmer, and although the latter's appointment had been announced long before, he took a full year in joining his duties at Poona, J. Uthoff the Assistant carrying on the work of the Poona Residency during the interval; but this year was marked by a comparative lull in Indian politics. Palmer joined his post at Poona on 24th March 1798. Next month Sir John Shore relinquished charge of his office as Governor-General, and his successor Lord Mornington landed in India and began that eventful career which marks a distinct epoch in the history of British India. Prior to his arrival in India Mornington had held long and fruitful consultations at the Cape with Col. Kirkpatrick who was on his homeward voyage, so that, with the close acquaintance of the European situation then dominated by the master mind of Bonaparte, Mornington arrived here determined to put down the French and make the British Power supreme in the East. He did not take long to set his policy in motion. He assumed charge of his duties at Fort William on 17th May and issued on 8th July his first famous declaration of policy which the student of history will do well to note carefully in the "Despatches of Marquess Wellesley" edited by Montgomery Martin. It will be useful to bear in mind these momentous changes in the British Indian administration, for it can be easily imagined that with Shore's strict regard for non-intervention and Uthoff's inability to initiate a fresh line of action, Maratha-British dealings dragged on pretty languidly during the year 1797, the Peshwa himself being then quite new to his position as head of the Maratha Empire, as he had been installed in his position only in December 1796.

2. *Preparing the ground.*—Col. Palmer's embassy at Poona extended over a period of three years and nine months from 24th March 1798 to 18th December 1801, with no break or absence on any account. So far as the Marathas were concerned, Palmer had no crisis to deal with, his attention being mainly directed towards negotiating a subsidiary alliance with the Peshwa, who stoutly resisted all overtures to that consummation from the Governor-General, so that the result of Palmer's efforts consisted only in the preparation of the ground, of which the fruit came to be reaped in the time of his successor, Colonel Barry Close. Possibly by temperament and inclination Palmer was too honest or scrupulous to hasten a wilful crisis in the fortunes of the Marathas. While sufficiently watchful for the interests of his employers, he was averse to overstepping the bounds of conscientious duty in his dealings with the Court of Poona. In a letter addressed to the Governor-General on 1st August 1801, he thus describes the dignity of his office:—"I think it incumbent on me to obviate any attempts which may be made to ascribe to the sanction of the British Government or to the countenance of its Resident, any practices against the Peshwa in any degree incompatible with good faith, with the nature of subsisting relations between the two States and with the candour and rectitude so essential to confidence and harmony in the public intercourse of nations". How far the Peshwa Bajirao reciprocated these sentiments of national honour, rectitude and good faith either towards his own subordinate chiefs or towards the British and other Powers, will be plain in the numerous papers printed in this volume.

3. *Life-sketch of Col. Palmer.*—But before proceeding further, it is necessary to give a short life-sketch of Col. Palmer.

William Palmer, born in 1740, served as an Ensign in H.M.'s Foot (1762–1766), was transferred to the Bengal Army of the East-India Company from the King's service in 1766 and was posted to the 3rd Native Infantry as Ensign in August 1767. He rose to be Lieutenant in September 1769, Captain in May 1777, Major in July 1781, Lt.-Colonel in March 1794, Colonel in November 1798, Major-General in January 1805, and Lt. General in June 1813, dying on 20th May, 1816. He early

became a favourite of Warren Hastings and was taken on the Governor-General's personal staff. In 1779 when the British-Maratha struggle assumed an aggravated phase, Hastings secured the Rana of Gohad as an ally and formed a treaty of friendship with him for the negotiation of which Captain Palmer was specially deputed to the Rana's Court. Palmer exchanged the ratification on 2nd April 1779. Two years later in August 1781 he attended his patron to Benares when the latter stood in great personal danger as the result of a rising of the populace. Hastings then wrote, "Major Palmer has been my confidential Secretary for several years." In a letter to Middleton, the Lucknow Resident (7th May 1782), he says that he has deputed Palmer for holding verbal communication, explanations and assurances with the Nawab Wazir on behalf of the Governor-General. In August 1784, at the end of his visit to Lucknow, Hastings left there "my Secretary, Major Palmer as my personal representative and Agent with the Nawab Wazir,"—on a salary of Rs. 2,20,000 a year. This was in addition to the British Resident at Lucknow.

From Oudh, Palmer was appointed Resident with Mahadji Sindhia *vice* William Kirkpatrick in October 1787 and continued to hold that post till the end of 1797, when he was transferred to the charge of the Poona Residency upon the retirement of Sir Charles W. Malet. In June 1800 he was removed from this very important and "arduous public station" by order of Marquess Wellesley, on the ostensible ground of his "precarious state of health and advanced time of life", but really for having failed to force a treaty of alliance upon the vacillating Peshwa.* He was first asked to give over the charge of the Residency to Mr. Webbe, but this arrangement was subsequently cancelled and Col. Close succeeded Col. Palmer at Poona, and both together had their audience of the Peshwa on 9th December 1801.

Palmer was now reverted to military service, being given light work as Commandant at Monghyr, and last of all at Berhampur (in Bengal), where he died on 20th May 1816, while still in

* See Martin's Despatches of Wellesley, Volume 5, Palmer's letters p. 405 and p. 407.
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employment at the age of 76. A General Order, issued on the 24th of that month declares, "The Governor-General in Council as a peculiar mark of the sense entertained by Government of the merits of this able and upright public officer, and as a testimony of respect due to his memory, is pleased to direct that 76 minute guns, corresponding with the age of the deceased, be fired this evening from the ramparts of Fort William; the flag being hoisted half mast high."

Palmer first married Sarah Melkado at St. Kitts, in the West Indies, in (May ?) 1762. Children of this marriage :—(1) Col. Samuel Palmer (b. 1762 ? d. 1814); (2) Major W. George Palmer (b. 1763 ? d. 1814); (3) John Palmer, the "Prince of Merchants" (b. 8th October 1767, d. 21st January 1836), has a bust in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on which he is wrongly described as the General's second son.

His second wife was Bibi Faiz Bakhsh, a Begum of Oudh (who died at Hyderabad in 1828.) Children of this marriage :—(4) William Palmer, called "King Palmer," the celebrated banker of Hyderabad (1781-1867), and father-in-law of Col. Meadows Taylor, (5) Hastings Palmer (1785-1860), (6) Charles, b. 1791, (7) Robert, b. 1791 ? besides two daughters.*

In his vast correspondence Palmer nowhere touches on his own personal or private matters, any more than he gives items of the Peshwa's private life at Poona and its surroundings: unlike Malet, we obtain no reference in Palmer's writings to the various gardens and places of resort where Bajirao is known to have indulged his amorous propensities. Palmer hated spying and prying into the private lives of those with whom he came in contact.

Being a silent plodder, Palmer stiffly preserved the dignity of his position and never cared to probe into the wiles either of his subordinates or of the innumerable agents and officials of the foreign Courts with whom he had to deal. He did not scruple to dismiss forthwith his own Munshi Fakruddin, son of

*From *Bengal Past and Present*, 1934, No. 94, p. 129.

Malet's Munshi the famous Nuruddin Husain, the moment he heard the slightest rumour of his being implicated in a plot to depose Bajirao, engineered from Hyderabad. Palmer writes a clear forceful style and goes straight at things. Choice words, apt phraseology, direct and unambiguous construction, reveal Palmer's heart and character more fully than anything else.

4. *Bajirao as Palmer sees him.*—By way of illustration, let us see what he has to say of Bajirao and Daulatrao Sindia at different places and in different connections. These quotations will at the same time fittingly introduce the reader to the subject matter of Palmer's embassy. The first few extracts are from the letters of Uhthoff, who also is marvellously lucid, graphic and discriminating in the expression both of news and comment. Possibly Uhthoff discloses closer acquaintance with Indian matters than Palmer.

On the 4th December 1797, that is exactly a year after Bajirao's accession, Uhthoff says —“ On the whole the prospect of a happy and permanent settlement of affairs here, is as faint and distant as ever. Daulatrao Sindia with an imperial bent of mind and activity of body, displays but little of either greatness or goodness and is said to have been of late addicted to debaucheries which have already affected his constitution.”

5th January 1798.—“ As far as I can presume to form any opinion on the subject, it appears to me that the present order of things is not by any means calculated to ensure a happy and permanent settlement of the affairs of the Maratha Empire. The Peshwa and his brothers without wealth or force or the co-operation of any Maratha chiefs of material weight or influence, are more immediately dependent than ever on Sindian party who will be probably imperious and insatiable. They possess force and some cunning and appear to be almost totally destitute of either wisdom or virtue.”

“ After 12 years residence among the Marathas I have not been able to discover that they have any such institution as a tribunal of justice for the trial either of civil or criminal cases, all causes being determined either by the despotism of the chief

or by arbitration, with occasional references to sacred writings, corruption being universal and indeed not considered as a heinous offence."

8th February 1798.—"Bapu Chitnis reports the affairs of the Peshwaship to be in utmost derangement, without cash, credit, force or confidence in the allegiance of any of the great chieftains, civil officers or troops."

In an important despatch dated 19th April 1799, Palmer wrote to the Governor-General, "The true motive of the Peshwa's conduct in his transactions with the Company seems to be an incurable distrust of every power and person that can exercise any control or influence over him and which never yields but to the apprehension or the suffering of some intolerable evil." "The Peshwa's mind is as insusceptible to the emotions of gratitude as to truth and justice. I have again remonstrated with him on this subject but with little expectation of any other effect than a renewal of deceitful promises and assurance." (22nd April 1799.)

7th September 1799.—"I am persuaded that the Peshwa has acted with insincerity throughout the whole progress of the negotiation and has had no other intentions from the first than to avoid the consequences of an unqualified refusal to treat and to deceive Your Lordship and the public by appearances of a disposition to concur in your views for the tranquillity of India. The tenor of the enclosed information marks his character with such traits of insincerity and duplicity as will induce you to hold him unworthy of an alliance with the British Government."

21st September 1799.—"The deep dissimulation and treachery of which Bajirao is capable makes unsafe to trust him in any important transaction and has destroyed all confidence in him from those with whom he is most essentially connected. The consequence is that all are interested in preventing the accession of power to so dangerous a character; and his authority will always remain circumscribed, or what is more probable, will soon be totally subverted. Nana Fadnis strongly dissuades the Peshwa & Sindia on motives of policy

from engaging in any measures which may involve them in a quarrel with the Company, reminding them of the unfavourable issue of their contest with Tippu and desiring them to consider whether they could provide funds for the support of another war with so formidable an enemy."

"The restless propensity of Bajirao to deceive and betray, has deprived him of the confidence, affection, esteem, and attachment of every individual, and his ruin will be the inevitable result."

28th April 1800.—"Bajirao's distrust of all mankind prevents his having recourse to the talents of others. His notorious insincerity deters every person from offering to assist him."

24th October 1800.—"Bajirao very rarely speaks his real sentiments and his countenance is admirably formed to conceal what passes in his mind."

18th December 1800.—"I cannot venture to predict with any degree of confidence what will be the future resolves of a mind so weak and capricious as that of Bajirao."

18th July 1801.—When a conspiracy to depose Bijarao and place Chimaji Appa on the musnud was detected, Palmer wrote, "I have no bias on my mind and no wish on the subject but to discover the truth and give the Peshwa that satisfaction to which he may be entitled. In the meantime I perceive the necessity of dismissing Fakhruddin from my service whether the charge brought against him be proved or not, unless it should be refuted to the Peshwa's entire conviction and his distrust totally removed. If a mere knowledge of the intrigue is criminal towards the Peshwa, I am as culpable as Meer Fakhruddin; but I do not conceive that it is my province to inform this Government of plots against it of which I may be casually apprized, nor that I can, consistently with the duty of my station, dispense with receiving information which is offered to me and which may eventually affect the interests of the British Government. And certainly Bajirao has shown so little solicitude to remove the suspicious appearances of his own direct treacherous enmity to the Company, that he cannot

expect from its Government communications of designs against him in which it has no participation."

5. *The Marathas and the British contrasted.*—After reading the papers printed in this volume one can realise how faithfully the decadent character of the Maratha Government is depicted by Palmer; and one feels almost every moment that the end could not be far off. The great minister Nana Fadnis was now less than a non-entity and was possibly being hastened to his death by a broken heart at the prospect of the impending national ruin, which no amount of wisdom on his part could avert. Bajirao and Sindia made it plain to him that the only use they had of him was in his reputed hoard of wealth, the grasping of which was their main object as much after that statesman's demise as during his lifetime. When Palmer arrived, Bajirao was 22 years of age and Daulatrao Sindia about four years younger, so that these two raw youths with no training or experience in statecraft and with all the wickedness of character which unlimited power usually begets, became the guardians of Maratha destinies, at a time when their British rivals were led by brilliant soldiers and diplomats unequalled perhaps by any others in the whole history of British India, such as the three Wellesley brothers, Palmer, Close (who has been described as the prince of British Indian diplomats), "King Colin," Lord Clive (Governor of Madras) Lord Lake (the Commander-in-Chief), Kirkpatrick, Malcolm, Munro, Elphinstone, the three last being rather young then. It was no wonder that the Marathas could not long hold their ground against such opponents.

Bajirao perhaps never understood, or lacked the capacity to understand, the grand and foresighted aims of the Governor-General, as he came into personal touch only with the genial Colonel Palmer, and not with the real power behind him. He could dodge the Resident with all kinds of excuses and pretexts, avoiding audiences with him by postponement and delay, he pretended ill-health or religious obstacles, and all the while maintained secret correspondence with the Company's enemies. It was indeed very trying for Palmer to deal with such a man. Even in the midst of serious troubles, Bajirao

resisted to the last the acceptance of British troops for his protection, which as he well knew meant an end of national liberty. In a document dated 19th February 1798 the Resident ably discusses the pros and cons of the policy of supplying Indian powers with military help in men and stores. Lord Wellesley immediately on his arrival put forth a clear cut scheme of subsidiary alliances with well marked provisions and rigid stipulations, and offered it for Bajirao's acceptance; and when direct approach for a formal alliance failed to have effect, Wellesley advised the policy of disintegration. On July 9, 1799, he thus writes to Palmer :—

“ I concur in your opinion that it is a most desirable object to re-establish a permanent cause of disunion between the Peshwa and Sindia, and the whole system of my policy is a sufficient earnest of anxiety to expel the French from the service of Sindia. But it might be dangerous to proceed to any steps which might tend to fix Sindia in the interests of the French. I desire you will keep this object constantly in view. Nothing would be more satisfactory to me than to find means of conciliating Sindia's interests in the present participation (i.e. the partition of Mysore territories conquered from Tipu) Perhaps it might be possible to arrange this most desirable object by some equitable adjustment of his pecuniary claims on the Nizam and the Peshwa. On this subject you will concert your measures with the Resident at Hyderabad ”

6. *Contents and character of the records in this Volume.*—The Poona files of the Residency correspondence have not all been preserved intact, and much of what was found missing therein was supplied from the Imperial Records Office by the indefatigable labours of Sir Jadunath Sarkar and Professor N. B. Roy. The student of history must bear in mind that each Residency had two sets of letters, the incoming and the outgoing. Most of Palmer's letters are replies to those which he received from the Governor-General. The latter have been mostly printed (in 1836) in five large volumes, edited by Montgomery Martin and have not been reprinted here. Only a few that were not

published by Martin have been given a place in this volume. Many topics therefore discussed by Palmer cannot be very well followed unless one has before him the Governor-General's queries or instructions, in reference to which Palmer had to frame his replies and to explain or originate a number of topics dealing with the situation and happenings at Poona. A copious chronology specially framed to lighten the student's task is given at the beginning, and it will enable him to follow correctly the variety of news, occurrences and developments of affairs that were being constantly deliberated upon between the Resident and the various other British authorities.

During the period of nearly four years over which the correspondence printed in this volume extends, a large number of personalities and incidents came to be handled by Palmer with characteristic minuteness. Bajirao and Daulatro Sindia may be considered the central figures of the whole drama, who might have wrecked the Maratha Raj much earlier but for the sober influence exercised by the presence of Palmer who, even at the risk of the Governor-General's displeasure, proved himself at once a well-meaning adviser and a beneficial check upon their wicked propensities, which he did not feel called upon to utilise for the Company's advantage. Copious glimpses are also obtained into the inner working of the minds of many other individuals, such as the Peshwa's brothers Amritrao and Chimnaji Appa, the Sindia's ministers Baloba Tatya and Aba Chitnis, Moroba Fadnis, Sarzarao Ghatge, Baburao Angre, Azim-ud-Daula *alias* Mushirulmuluk, Govind-rao Kale and others. In fact these papers ought to supply a full and day-to-day narrative of events that occurred at the Peshwa's Court, unequalled in range and intellectual quality by any other records existing even in Marathi. The letters printed by Khare were penned by ordinary clerks and sink into insignificance before these well reasoned and ample materials coming from the pen of an able English "Political" of the ripest and most varied experience.

7. *Topics discussed.*—The main performance of Palmer during his Residency can be summed up as an abortive negotiation for a subsidiary alliance which the Governor-General was

pressing upon the Peshwa with all the vehemence of his nature and which the astute Peshwa with equal suppleness long succeeded in evading. How Bajirao was ultimately driven into compliance is a theme of the utmost interest. The rash folly of Bajirao in putting to death with unspeakable atrocities Vithoji, a scion of the old Holkar family, was avenged on the whole Maratha race by the victim's elder brother Yashwantrao, who brought about the crisis for which the Governor-General had been only too eagerly waiting and which will be unfolded in a latter volume.

All the other topics discussed in this volume in one way or another lead up to Bajirao's ultimate resort to British protection and may be briefly enumerated here: Sindia's conquest of Kolaba (November 1797-February 1798), the final war with Tipu Sultan (February-May 1799); the arrest and confinement of Nana Fadnis with its inevitable termination in death (1797-1800); Daulatrao's war with the Sindia ladies for over a year in the Deccan (May 1798-August 1799) and then for another year in the north (January-December 1800); the fleecing by Bajirao and Sarzarao Ghatge of innocent citizens and bankers of their wealth; the plots to depose Bajirao and establish a saner administration in Poona; the open rebellions of chiefs and officials throughout the Maratha dominions these with many other minor incidents are discussed here with a wealth of accurate detail and elaborate treatment nowhere else available. While Bajirao was preoccupied with domestic troubles, the Nizam was being almost imperceptibly manœuvred into a vassal's position by the consummate dexterity of Lord Wellesley, so that with Tipu removed from the scene and the Nizam assured as a useful dependant, the Governor-General could devote his undivided energies to circumventing the Marathas towards the end of 1801, when the narrative of this volume comes to a close. For the sake of convenience of study, I have divided this volume into the following sections:—

1. Uhthoff's correspondence, Bajirao's slide-down (February 1797—March 1798).

2. Mornington's policy of alliances (April—December 1798).
3. Annihilation of Tipu Sultan, Bajirao's attitude (December 1798-June 1799).
4. Subsidiary alliance rejected by the Peshwa (June-December 1799).
5. Death of Nana Fadnis, Bajirao and Sindia at their wits' end (January-October 1800).
6. Troubles all round, plots to depose Bajirao (January-December 1801).

As the modern student of history goes through these pages, he is slowly but irresistibly overcome by a sense of the dark clouds gathering over the Maratha nation's horizon with the certainty of Fate in a Greek tragedy,—clouds which were to burst in the thunderclap of Assaye and Argaum, Laswari and Dig. These records give the reason why, beyond the possibility of a doubt.

G. S. SARDESAI.

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POONA AFFAIRS (1797-1801)

Col. Palmer's Embassy

CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

1797	February	15	A friendly understanding was effected between Amritrao, Nana Fadnis and Daulatrao
	"	17	Bajirao was married to a grand-daughter of Haripant Phadke
	"	22	Malet left Poona finally, handing over charge to Uthhoff
	"	25	Malet reached Bombay
	"	27	Bajirao and Chimna Appa paid a surprise visit to Nana Fadnis
	"	28	Azim-ul-Umra enlarged from Peshwa's captivity
	"	28	Senapati Yashvantrao Dabhade's daughter was married to the son of Ladoji Sitole and Balabai (daughter of Mahadji Sindia)
March		1	Raoji Appaji came to Poona from Govindrao Gaikwad
	"	5	Raoji Appaji paid a visit to Uthhoff
	"	16	Bajirao sent some valuable presents for the Honourable Co. with Malet.
	"	16	Major Kirkpatrick on his way to Bombay paid a visit to Azim-ul-Umra at Poona
	"		Bajirao levied a house-tax upon residents of Poona, equal to one year's rent
May		1	Nana Fadnis prepared Raigad and Lohgad for defensive operations and applied for military stores to the British against opponents
	"	4	Bajirao with Chimna Appa and Amritrao paid a visit to Daulatrao Sindia
	"	12	Bajirao agreed to give back to Nizam the territories ceded at Khanda
	"	22	Bajirao paid a visit to Nana Fadnis
	"	23	Death of the Satara Raja's wife is reported by the Resident
June		14	Raghujee Bhosle paid a visit to Bajirao
	"	16	Raghujee Bhosle gave an entertainment to Kashirao Holkar and took his leave of the Peshwa
July		14	The Peshwa, setting aside Jaysing Angria, granted Sanads of Kolaba to Baburao Angria
August		15	Tukoji Holkar died at Poona
	"	20	Bahiropanth Mehendale died in confinement at Raigad
	"	22	Sindia's General Perron started from Poona for the north
September		14	Malharrao Holkar was suddenly attacked by Daulatrao's cavalry and killed. Yashvantrao and Vithoji escaped
	"	20	Bajirao invested Baburao Angria with robes of Sarkhel for Kolaba
	"	23	Ramachandra Shenoi, Peshwa's agent at Bombay, was seized and confined by Sindia at Poona
	"	23	Tanjore Raja's Vakil Govind Pandit came to the Peshwa at Poona
	"	28	Amritrao and Nana consulted Meer Fakhruddin to seek the Resident's mediation to settle disputes at the Poona Court

- 1797 October 4 .. Tipu's Vakils took Nana Fadnis' leave for departure.
 „ 4 .. Jayabai, Malharrao Holkar's wife, was apprehended and confined by Kashirao Holkar.
 „ 5 & 6 .. A grand Council of all parties was held at Nana's house for effecting reconciliation and securing Sindia's move to the north.
 „ 9 .. Three Italian priests confined by the Raja of Kolhapur at Bavda were released through the influence of Nana Fadnis.
 „ 15 .. Baburao Angre applied for British help for the possession of Kolaba.
 „ 15 .. Nana Fadnis applied to the British for a supply of military stores.
 „ 26 .. Chimna Appa's adoption was dissolved by Bajirao with religious rites.
 November 17 .. Baburao Angria submits terms for British help.
 „ 17 .. Bajirao held an exhibition of fireworks at Parvati hill.
 „ 19 .. Col. Palmer left Kalpi for Poona overland.
 December 21 .. Sindia's battalions captured Kolaba from Jaysinhrao Angria for Baburao. Jaysinh took shelter in Hirakot.
 „ 31 .. Nana Fadnis was seized and kept under arrest by Daulatrao Sindia.
- 1798 February 2 .. The Chhatrapati took possession of the fort of Satara.
 „ 3 .. Daulatrao Sindia fired a salute of joy on the conquest of Kolaba.
 „ 25 .. Sindia's troops returned to Poona, with Jayasingh and Manaji Angre in custody.
 „ .. Lord Mornington had a long consultation at the Cape on Indian affairs with Col. Kirkpatrick returning home.
 „ 26 .. Daulatrao was married to Baijabai, daughter of Sarzarao Ghatge.
 March 6 .. Narayanrao Bakshi was seized by Sindia and confined at Ahmednagar.
 „ 16 .. Sindia's troops started sitting Dharna for arrears of pay being defrayed.
 „ 22 .. Col. Palmer arrived at Poona.
 „ 24 .. Col. Palmer had his first audience with the Peshwa.
 „ 25 .. The French Commander Raymond died at Hyderabad.
 April 15 .. Appa Balvant Mehendale committed suicide at Poona.
 „ 18 .. Bhau Bakshi was reinstated by Sindia as Munshy to the Br. Resident.
 „ 26 .. Lord Mornington landed at Fort St. George.
 May 15 .. Mahadji Sindia's three wives were ill-treated by Sarzarao Ghatge, and forced into palanquins for proceeding to Ahmednagar. Muzaffar Khan Pathan met them at Koregaum and started war against Sindia. Amritrao joined them.
 „ 17 .. Lord Mornington assumed office at Ft. William.
 June 25 .. An artillery action took place near Poona between Sindia's troops and the ladies' party headed by Amritrao. The latter retreated.
 July 8 .. Mornington launched his famous policy of alliances.
 „ 13 .. Mornington offered a Br. subsidiary force to be stationed at Poona for the Peshwa's protection.
 „ 15 .. Nana Fadnis was released from confinement at Ahmednagar and proceeded to Poona where he was soon after enlarged.
 „ 25 .. Sarzarao Ghatge, Fakirji Gadhwe and Yado Bhaskar were arrested and confined by Sindia.
 August 25 .. Bajirao applied to the Resident for protection against violence from Sindia and simultaneously sought an alliance with Tipu. Both were feints practised against the British.

1798	September 1	The Nizam dismissed his French officers and accepted British troops in their place
	" 8	Nana Fadnis was reappointed Minister by Bajirao
	November 14	Bajirao paid a private visit to Nana and offered him his most humble submission
	December 6	Colebrooke was appointed British ambassador to the Court of Nagpur
	" 7	General Harris left Calcutta for Madras to launch an offensive against Tipu
	" 17	Muzaffar Khan Pathan, the supporter of Sindia ladies, died
	" 25	Mornington embarked for Madras
1799	January	Fighting took place for a long time between Ambaji Ingle and Lakha Dada, two of Sindia's generals in the north
	" 3	Govindrao Pingle died
	" 4	Aba Chitnis became Sindia's minister in the place of Baloba Taty
	" 14	Govind Krishna Kale was arrested and confined at Satara
	" 21	Parashuram Bhau marched against Satara
	February 3	Mornington declared war against Tipu
	" 7	Wedding of Amritrao's son Vinayakrao took place at Poona
	March 5	General Stuart routed Tipu's forces at Sudeshvar
	" 27	Tipu sustained a severe defeat at Malavelli
	April 25	Mornington proposed a treaty of defensive alliance with Raghujy Bhosla against Tipu
	" 25	Mornington conveyed a declaration to Sindia that any move on his part against Nizam would be considered an act of war against the Co
	" 29	Nana Fadnis offered to lead the Peshwa's contingent himself against Tipu.
	" 30	The Peshwa held a grand all-party conference at a garden near Poona and paid a private visit to Nana, expressing readiness to abide by the latter's advice
	May 4	Seringapatan was captured, Tipu fell fighting Bajirao and Sindia felt extremely alarmed
	" 14	The Resident conveyed to the Peshwa the Governor General's official announcement of British victory over Tipu
	" 20	Peshwa's secret correspondence with Tipu was detected by the Resident
	" 22	Nana Fadnis requested British protection at Benares for completing his house and the bridge across the Karamnasha
	June 11	The Peshwa proposed a secret alliance with the British against Sindia
	" 14	The Resident started negotiations with the Peshwa for a subsidiary alliance with the British against the French power
	July 2	The Peshwa submitted his own terms for the defensive alliance
	" 21	The Governor General asked the Peshwa to deliver up the fort of Cooti to the Nizam
	August 6	Reconciliation between Sindia and his ladies is reported to have taken place
	" 19	The establishment of the Resident's escort at Poona was revised by the Commander-in-Chief
	" 28	Negotiations between the Peshwa and the Resident for a subsidiary alliance broke down
	" 30	Baloba Taty and Amritrao formed a secret plan to depose Bajirao and place Amritrao's son on the Peshwa's musnud

- 1799** September 4 .. Palmer in disgust closed all negotiations about the defensive alliance with the Peshwa.
- .. 15 .. Mornington returned to Calcutta from Madras.
- .. 17 .. Parasharam Bhau was killed in a battle at Pattankudi and his sons taken prisoners.
- .. 17 .. Bajirao and Sindia with the ministers of both executed a solemn engagement of mutual friendship and support.
- October 15 .. Capt. Malcolm was appointed British envoy to the King of Persia.
- .. 19 .. Col. Close was appointed Resident at Mysore.
- .. 25 .. Nana Fadnis joined Baloba Tatya's secret plan to depose Bajirao and place Chimna Appa on the musnud.
- .. 25 .. Daulatrao removed Baburao Angria from the Divan's office and appointed Baloba Tatya in his place.
- December 20 .. Earl Mornington was created Marquis Wellesley.
- 1800** January 1 .. King George III's letter arrived for the Peshwa from England.
- .. 7 .. The letter after disputed formalities was received by the Peshwa in open Darbar.
- .. 14 .. An attempt was made to assassinate the Sindia ladies : Yamunabai was wounded.
- .. 17 .. Nana Fadnis received a secret report of an attempt on his life.
- February 21 .. Bajirao compelled Nana to pass a solemn oath never to support the claim of Yashodabai (widow of the late Peshwa) to adopt a son.
- March 1 .. Secret intrigues by the Peshwa with Hyderabad and Mysore against the British power were detected and reported by the Resident to the Governor General.
- .. 6 .. Palmer was allowed to have a long leave.
- .. 7 .. The Resident reported Nana Fadnis suffering for four days from fever and diarrhoea, threatening a fatal termination.
- .. 13 .. The Resident reported Nana to be in a dangerous condition. He died the same day.
- .. 13 .. Sindia's regiments under Brownrigg sustained a severe repulse before Kolhapur.
- .. 14 .. Raja of Kolhapur applied for British protection against the attacks from Patwardhans.
- April 18 .. The Peshwa delivered up to the Resident a secret emissary who had come to him from Mysore.
- .. 23 .. Bajirao appointed Amritrao his Diwan.
- .. 25 .. Baloba Tatya and his nephew Dhondiba were arrested and confined by Sindia.
- .. 26 .. Manaji Fakde died.
- .. 30 .. Ramchandra Appa and Sindia's regiments evacuated Kolhapur.
- May .. The Governor General suggested a permanent agreement with Bajirao.
- .. 18 .. Palmer delivered to the Peshwa a friendly message received from Sir Charles Malet.
- .. 18 .. Narayan Jivaji Bakshi and Dhondiba Pagnis were burnt alive by Sindia.
- .. 31 .. Sindia blew off from the mouth of a cannon Manaji Wable and two others of his staff.

00	June	..	Sadashiv Mankeshwar and Balaji Kumbhar became advisers of Bajirao
	Sarzarao Ghatge's cruelties so enraged the Sindia ladies that they proceeded to the north and started fresh trouble
	..	3	Peshwa granted permission to Col Arthur Wellesley to enter Maratha territory in pursuit of Dhondia Wagh
	..	11	Dhondia Wagh captured Savnur
	..	16	Bajirao arranged a counterfeit ceremony of adoption by Nana Fadnis' widow and arrested and confined Naropant Chakradev and other partizans of Nana
	..	17	Shah Mir the leader of the Arabs in Nana's employ, who had waged a severe struggle and effected fearful slaughter of Sindia's troops, obtained terms and retired finally
	..	22	Moroba Fadnis was brought to Poona
	..	29	Dhondopant Gokhle, the Peshwa's commandant and his nephew were killed near Kittur in an encounter with Dhondia Wagh
	..	30	Col Palmer became indisposed for a few days
	July	8	Sindia put to a cruel death Yashwantrao Shivaji Wagle and another of his officers
	..	22	Amritrao retired to Bhivandi, giving up all connection with Poona
	Govind Krishna Kale was released from confinement
	August	26	Bajirao and Sindia dissimulated enmity with each other and the former asked Col Wellesley to come to his rescue. The whole affair was detected and explained
	September	10	Dhondia Wagh was killed in a battle near Bhanu (Kanakagiri)
	..	19	Govindrao Gaikwad died at Baroda,
	..	23	Peshwa and Sindia were reported to be most cordially attached to each other
	October	12	The Nizam accepted a subsidiary alliance with the British
	..	15	Bapuji Malhar alias Bhau Bakshi died on his way to Poona after being released from confinement at Ahmednagar
	..	29	Daulatrao left Poona finally, leaving Sarzarao Ghatge behind
	..	31	Col Wellesley left Hubli and returned to Seringapatan
	November	1	Baloba Tatya died in confinement at Ahmednagar
	..	1	Yashwantrao Holkar made a surprise attack upon the Sindia ladies at Ujjain and plundered them. Lakba Wagle was killed. The ladies being joined by Lakba Lad proceeded towards Gwalior
	..	24	The Peshwa left for Saswad and Jejuri accompanied by Palmer
	December	8	Bajirao kept Yashodabai, Jiubai (Nana's wife) and the Pratinidhi in confinement at Purandar
	..	23	A gun and a pair of pistols were sent to Sindia as presents by the Court of Directors
1801			Plunder, rebellions and disorders prevailed throughout the Deccan during the first few months of this year
	January	24	The Peshwa and the Resident returned to Poona from their trip to Jejuri
	February	20	Sarzarao left Poona and marched towards Kolhapur, ravaging the country on his way

- 1801 April 1 .. Madhāorao and Kashirao Raste with three of their sons were seized at a Darbar and confined by the Peshwa. The guards and attendants of Yashodabai were all changed.
- „ 3 .. Jivaji Yashavant and Balkrishna Gangadhar after being routed were called for a conference and treacherously seized by the Peshwa.
- „ 16 .. Vithoji Holkar was cruelly crushed to death by the Peshwa.
- May 11 .. A conspiracy to depose the Peshwa was set on foot in Poona headed by Amritrao and Chimnaji Appa.
- June 2 .. Perron inflicted a severe defeat upon the ladies near Jhansi, with great slaughter on both sides. The Ladies came to the protection of Ambaji Ingle. Lakba Lad received wounds of which he died a few months afterwards (7th February 1802).
- „ 5 .. Sarzarao Ghatge visited Satara with a view to release the Raja.
- „ 26 .. Bajirao made an unsuccessful attempt to kill Ghatge at a meeting.
- June to October Severe fighting took place near the Narmada river between Sindia and Yashavantrav Holkar.
- June 28 .. Sarzarao suddenly left Poona for Koregaum and proceeded to join Daulatrao.
- July 8 .. Bajirao arrested Sadashiv Raghunath *alias* Dada Gadre for complicity in a plot to depose him, in which Fakruddin and his brother Nizam-ud-din at Hyderabad were both implicated.
- „ 18 .. Palmer reported the plot to Governor General : Bajirao demanded Fakruddin's dismissal.
- August 1 .. Palmer's Munshy Fakruddin was dismissed for complicity in the plot to depose Bajirao.
- „ 8 .. Bajirao being alarmed for his own safety deputed Sadashiv Mankeshwar to Hyderabad to counteract harmful activities from that Court. The origin of the conspiracy was attributed to Amritrao. Sadashiv Mankeshwar was asked to induce the Nizam to form an alliance with the French and against the British.
- September 5 .. Palmer reported that Bajirao was utterly disliked and distrusted by all his chiefs.
- „ 25 .. Bajirao and Amritrao met at Kopargaum. The latter advised the former to accept British alliance for his protection.
- October 24 .. Col. Close was appointed to succeed Palmer.
- November 28 .. Col. Close left Bombay for Poona.
- December 6 .. Col. Close reached Poona.
- „ 9 .. Col. Close and Palmer together had their audience of the Peshwa, after which Palmer handed over charge to Close.
- „ 18 .. Palmer left Poona for Calcutta.

(Important dates of Lord Wellesley's life)

1760	June	20	.	Born
1797	October	4		Appointed Governor General
1797	..	6		Sworn in his appointment
1797	November	7		Sailed from England
1798	February			At the Cape, had consultation with William Kirkpatrick going home
1798	April	26		Landed at Fort St George
1798	May	17		Entered office at Fort William
1799	December	20		Created Marquess Wellesley, till then Lord Mornington
1805	July	30	..	Resigned office in India,
1812	September	26	..	Died

Might I presume to make any observation on the subject of Colonel Palmer's appointment to succeed Sir Charles Malet in this Residency, it would be, that if you, Hon'ble Sir, have been actuated by public principles on the occasion, no one will acquiesce more heartily in the eligibility of the arrangement than myself, however much I may be supposed to suffer personally after serving under Sir Charles Malet in the Residency irreproachably at least I trust, for upwards of eleven years.

No. 2—Uththoff reports that Bajirao paid a private visit to Nana Fadnis and that Yashwantrao Dabhade's daughter was married to Sitole Deshmukh.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,

TO THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 3rd March 1797.

On the 28th ultimo Azim'ul Omrah moved his army at the requisition of Dowlut Row Sindia, and encamped close to Ragojee Bhonsla about two or three miles from his former ground; and on the ensuing day Dowlut Row occupied his usual place of cantonment near the city, on part of which Azim-ul-Omrah had been encamped. These movements were in consequence of Baajy Row's having taken up his residence in the city where he is attended by Sindia's guards.

I cannot discern any progress towards the settlement of affairs in this quarter, and it is a generally received opinion, that Baajy Row and Dowlut Row Sindia will not acquiesce in the immense cessions to the Nizam as the price of His Highness's good offices in the late revolution, which it is now contended, were of but little efficacy on the occasion.

On the 27th ultimo Baajy Row on his return into town from a religious excursion in the environs, stopped with Chimna Appa, at the house of Nanna Furnavies, and paid him a visit without the customary previous intimation of his intending to shew him such a mark of attention, which is attributed to levity and the caprice of the moment on the part of Baajy Row, (by which he appears to be but too much actuated) rather than to a frank spirit of cordial reconciliation.

Eswunt Row Dubbary, the head of an ancient and respectable family in the empire, enjoying the hereditary office of Seynaputti under the Marratta Rajahs, was lately prevailed upon to promise his daughter in marriage to the only son of Ballabhye, widow of the late Larrojee Deysmookh and daughter of the late Mhadjee Sindia, who, in point of caste is held inferior in estimation from being the son of a slave woman. Eswunt Row, feeling the reproach that attached to him from this connexion, attempted to evade the performance of his promise by flight, but being overtaken about 30 coss hence, he was brought to Poona, and the marriage

ceremony took place on the 28th ultimo, on which occasion Dowlut Row Sindia paid a visit to Eswunt Row. It is said that Dowlut Row Sindia has engaged, in consideration of the marriage, to put Eswunt Row in possession of the territories in Guzerat now held by the Guykuwar family, who were originally servants of the family of Dubbarry, the major part of whose possessions they acquired some years ago.

On the 1st instant arrived here Rouba, one of the principal ministers of Govin Row Guykewar, charged, as I understand, with the settlement of his master's affairs with the new government here

No. 3—Malet sends to the Court of Directors a detailed review describing the actual position of political affairs at Poona and in other parts of India.

FROM—C W. MALET, BOMBAY,

TO—THE HON'BLE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HON'BLE COURT OF DIRECTORS, LONDON.

Bombay, 8th March 1797.

As soon after my return to Poona in December last, as circumstances and a discovery of the disposition of the parties concerned would permit, I adopted such measures, in conformity with the Governor General's wishes, as seemed most promotive of effecting the great and good work of general accommodation and it is with singular pleasure I can now acquaint you that a coalition was effected between Emrut Row (the Peshwa's adoptive brother), Doulut Row Sindia and Nana Furnavees, under the entire assent and approbation of the Peshwa Badjeerow on the 15th ultimo, of whom I had an audience the same day, which I embraced, as an appropriate opportunity of presenting the Governor General's Keellat of congratulation on his late accession to the Musnud, that seemed so happily confirmed by the recent coalition, of which Emrut Row was pleased to observe, my good offices had been considerably promotive.

This important event was followed by the celebration of the Peshwa's nuptials with a grand-daughter of the late Hurry Punt the ensuing day, at which having been invited to be present, I attended to pay my congratulatory respects on the 17th, when having gone through the ceremonies suited to the occasion, I embraced the opportunity of acquainting the Peshwa, that having happily witnessed every thing that my heart desired in his accession to his hereditary rights and the celebration of his nuptials amidst the blessings of re-established tranquillity, no wish remained ungratified but that of being permitted to revisit my native country, and there to impress my Sovereign and my masters, the Hon'ble Company, with a due sense of his good qualities

and of the friendship he had on all occasions been pleased to profess in the warmest terms to our country.

This request produced much amicable controversy, the detail of which might savor of egotism. Suffice it then, Honorable Sir, to say that at length my application was complied with, in consequence of which I had my audience of leave, and bade adieu to the Peshwa and the Court of Poona on the 21st ultimo, agreeable to the explanation contained in the enclosed copy of my letter of that date to the Governor General, after an actual residence of 10 years, 11 months and 25 days, in which long period I am unconscious of having made a derogatory concession or of having adopted an unjustifiable assumption; while in quitting my station at a season of general tranquillity in this country after upward of a year's notice to the Governor General which has furnished ample time for arranging a succession, I am emboldened to hope that the Hon'ble Court will honor the close of my ministry with that approbation, which has been so uninterruptedly extended throughout the whole course of its existence.

Previous to my quitting Poona, I received farewell visits from Azim-Ul-Omra the Nazim's Minister and Nana Furnavees the Peshwa's, at which they both strove to impress me with an high sense of their sincere disposition to improve the friendship subsisting between their respective states and the Hon'ble Company.

Nana at the same time gave me to understand that there was a probability of Azim-Ul-Omra's being detained some time longer by the intricacies, in which the conditions of his interference in the late revolution were involved, and which may, in my humble opinion, be eventually the source of considerable embarrassment to all the parties still assembled in the neighbourhood of Poona.

I reached this place on the morning of the 25th ultimo and purpose embarking on the Company's ship "Albion", that is expected to sail direct from hence for England in the course of the ensuing month, when I shall be impatient to assure you in person of the high respect and gratitude, with which I am penetrated towards my Hon'ble Masters, and to furnish such general information, as you may think proper to require or may to me appear requisite to communicate, for the better elucidation of the politics of this country, with which our national interests are so inseparably blended.

It is with real satisfaction I can assure you that I see no reason to make the smallest alteration in those opinions regarding Tippoo Sultaun which I had the honor to submit to you in December last, and though the northern parts of India have since that time been subjected to considerable alarm by the late advance of Zuman Shah (grandson of Ahmed Shah) Abdalee to Lahore; yet am I happy to have it in my power to acquaint you on authority, in which I place entire credit, of his retreat again toward Cabul his capital, a measure that will not only relieve the countries more

immediately exposed to his invasion from the dread of so ferocious an enemy, but enable the Governor General to prosecute with more deliberation those objects of mutual benefit and security to the Company and the Vizier in pursuit of which he is now on a visit to that Prince, and which will doubtless be promoted by those movements of the Bengal Army to the northern frontier, which the southern movement of Zuman Shah had rendered necessary on precautionary principles.

List of presents from the Peshwa for the Hon'ble Company, entrusted to Sir Charles Warre Malet, Baronet, March 1797 —

Jewellery, viz.	.. 1 Serpeich.
	1 Jeega.
	1 Cunttee Murewarew
Cloths, viz.	1 Turband.
	1 Putka
	2 Pieces of Jameywaur (cotton cloth).
	1 Pair of Shawls.
	1 Piece of Kinkhaub.

True copy.

(Signed) J. Uthtoff.

No. 4—Uthtoff reports several matters to the Governor General viz., the aspiration of Dada Gadre to the post of the Minister to the British Residency, the arrival of Raoji Appaji from Baroda to Poona, and the intention of Bajirao to impose heavy taxes upon the residents and bankers of Poona.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

Poona, 13th March 1797.

Nana affected ignorance of what had passed between Dada Gujra and Meer Fulleer-ud-Deen on the 27th ultimo, relative to the new channel of intercourse between the Durbar and this Residency, and observed that our affairs would continue to be transacted through the usual channel, that is, Moro Pandit. That he would submit to Baajy Row my suggestion of a letter and presents from the Peshwa to the Hon'ble Company, that the answer to his former query to Sir Charles Malet was of so general a nature as to be useless, and was the more extraordinary considering the unreservedness he had shewn towards us, in communicating all the particulars of the engagements, by which the late revolution was effected. That as to the present state of affairs here, it was so conspicuous as not to require any explanation from him.

Dada Gujra is of a family of considerable consequence in the empire, related to Nana, of great personal weight from his character, wealth and office of Ser Subedar of the Kokun, and has latterly acquired considerable additional influence with Nana from important services rendered to the minister during the late critical circumstances of his residence at Mhar in the Kokun. There appears great reason to suppose that while Nana would be desirous of establishing such a channel of intercourse between the Durbar and this Residency, both Baajy Row and Emrut Row should oppose it. The office of minister on the part of this Court for our affairs here is an object of desirable acquisition to many persons of considerable consequence in this empire. It was the principal means of the aggrandizement of Behro Pandit. Among the competitors to succeed Behro Pundit in this office was Gopaul Row Munshy, frequently mentioned in the course of my correspondence at the period of the late revolution in October and November last. On the office being conferred on Moro Pundit, Gopaul Row retired from business in disgust and still continues unemployed. Dada Gujra seems peculiarly desirous to hold this office from his interests in the Kokun being materially connected, by neighbourhood and constant intercourse, with ours in the Bombay quarter.

It surely cannot be necessary to enter into a refutation of Nana's reasoning on the point he submitted to Sir Charles Malet, relative to the engagements entered into with Nizam Ally Khan. The answer given to him was surely as full and direct as our knowledge of circumstances admitted and political caution warranted.

On the 5th instant, Rowba, Goubin Row Guykwar's minister, who arrived here a few days ago, paid me a complimentary visit, and assured me in the most cordial manner of the friendship and attachment of his master towards the Hon'ble Company which had commenced with his connexion with the late Ragoba, and had been strengthened and cemented by the good offices of Sir Charles Malet, in his favor at this Court at the period of his investiture in his principality in 1793/4, on the death of his younger brother Manajee Guykwar. Rouba regretted much the departure of Sir Charles Malet before his arrival here, and intimated that he had two or three points of business to submit to me, which he should reserve for a future opportunity. He insisted on my acceptance of a pair of shawls, a piece of Kinkhaub, a Turband, and a piece of white cloth, notwithstanding the repetition of my reluctance to receive them. They will, of course, as usual be appropriated to the Hon'ble Company.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, Hon'ble Sir, that a letter is preparing from the Peshwa for the Hon'ble Company to be conveyed by Sir Charles Malet.

Complaints are very general and loud against the tax laid by the Peshwa on the houses in town, which as yet has only been levied on some of the hired houses, to the amount of one year's rent. It is understood to be in

agitation to levy a chout (a fourth part) on the value of all houses in town occupied by their owners ; but this will probably be mitigated in every case, and in many, total exemption may be admitted on the score of influence, connexion or favor. It is also said that one year's income will be required from all the chiefs, jagheerdars, and holders of land under whatever denomination; but this also probably will like the former be susceptible of many drawbacks. A contribution from the Soukars and merchants will also, it is thought, be required ; and the amount to be levied from the banking shops here of three of the branches of the house of Dyaram Gopaul Doss of Benares, is estimated by report at five lakcs of rupees.

There admits of no doubt that Baajy Row is in great distress for money, but it seems not unlikely that if the above measures were not suggested by Nana, they have at least been supported by him, with a view to draw obloquy on Baajy Row and his party by exciting comparisons, disadvantageous to Baajy Row, between the measures of the Poona government under his Peishwaship and those while he (Nana) had the control of affairs. Nana refers the complainants to Baajy Row, who on the other hand refers to Nana those who complain to him.

It is said that Ragojee Bhonsla will have leave to depart in a few days.

The dawk from Bombay having been delayed a few hours affords me the satisfaction to add that Major Kirkpatrick arrived here this morning

No. 5—Uthhoff writes to the Governor General about the visit of Major Kirkpatrick to Poona and of the affairs of Daulatrao Sindia.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON. SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17th March 1797.

I have the honor to transmit copy of a letter from Sir Charles Malet of the 11th instant with copy of his address to the Chairman of the Court of Directors dated the 8th

On the 16th instant a letter and presents from the Peshwa for the Hon'ble Company were despatched to Sir Charles Malet at Bombay. I have the honor to enclose a list of the presents, and by a future opportunity will transmit copies of the letters from the Peshwa to His Majesty and the Hon'ble Company, with copy of the letter from Nana Furnavees to Lord Cornwallis

Little or nothing of an interesting nature has occurred here for some days past, business being in a great measure at a stand here, among the Hindoos on account of the Hooly festival and among the Mahomedans on account of the Ramzaun.

Major Kirkpatrick paid his first visit to Azim-ul-Omrah yesterday evening, and intends to proceed to Bombay on the 20th instant, having I am concerned to say, experienced scarcely any improvement in his health since he left Hyderabad, and the hopes of effectual relief resting chiefly on the salutary influence of the sea air.

A few days ago Doulut Row Scindea sent a party of troops into Poona, who seized Rajaram Bhow and brought him to his (Scindia's) camp, but at the intercession of Nana Furnavees he has been since released. Kishna Chitnavees (Abba's brother) was yesterday put in confinement by Doulut Row, but has been since enlarged on Baboo Angria becoming security for him. Rajaram Bhow was one of the principal adherents of Abba Chitnavees during the latter's ministry. Doulut Row urges Nana to obtain the liquidation of all the pecuniary demands of the Scindean Durbar against Abba Chitnavees, of whose reinstatement in the Scindean Ministry there does not at present appear any prospect.

No. 6—Kirkpatrick reports an important interview he had with Azim-ul-Umra at Poona and presents some weighty documents referring to the several agreements by which the accession of Bajirao to Peshwaship was accomplished.

FROM—WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK,

TO—JOSHUA UHTHOFF, ESQ.

Poona, 20th March 1797.

At my final visit to Azim-ul-Omra yesterday evening, the following papers, in the Mahrattah language, were read to me by Rajah Ragotim Rao, and interpreted jointly by him and the Minister.

1. An arrangement between Ballajee Pundit and Azim-ul-Omra, as the Ministers and representatives, respectively of the Paishwa and Nizam, stipulating certain services to be rendered to the Mahrattah State, on the part of his Highness (having for their main object the elevation of Baajee Row to the Paishwaship) and the remuneration of the same, consisting of various concessions to be made to the Court of Hyderabad.

2. Copy of a letter from Bajee Row to Balajee Pundit, of a subsequent date to the preceding piece, pledging himself to agree to and confirm, whatever engagements he (Balajee) should have contracted with a view to his service. This letter was procured from Bajee Row by Azim-ul-Omra through whose hands it passed to Balajee Pundit.

3. Agreement between Dowlut Rao Sindeah and Azim-ul-Omra.

4. Letter from Dowlut Rao Sindeah to Azim-ul-Omra.

In explanation of this last document, I was informed, that soon after the return of Balajee Pundit to the vicinity of Poonah, certain overtures had

been made by Dowlut Rao to Azim-ul-Omra for seizing the person of Balajee . that these had been rejected by Azim-ul-Omra who signified to Sindeah, that he was determined to stand between Balajee and any attempt upon either his life or liberty . but that if it should be thought proper to dispense with his ministerial services, there could be no objection to his honorable dismissal and retirement : that much about the same time, Sindeah had objected to the concessions made to the Nizam by the Agreement No. 1 ; that he had not been made acquainted with them in due season, insinuating thereby that he was not bound by his separate convention with Azim-ul-Omra to see the same fulfilled : that to this Azim-ul-Omra had replied, by the mouth of Baboo Kullian Row, that if he (Dowlut Row) had not been fully informed of the engagement in question at the time of its being entered into, it was because he had not testified any curiosity , and that he himself (Azim-ul-Omra) could in the same manner, object to the engagement which had passed between Bajee Row (or Balajee Pundit, on his part) and Sindeah, that they had not been formally communicated to him . It was on a due consideration of all these points, according to Azim-ul-Omra and Ragotim Rao, that Dowlut Rao addressed the piece No 4 to the Minister ; and which piece is considered by them as equivalent to an express acquiescence in, and ratification of everything contained in the Instruments No. 1 and 3.

The several dates of these papers by pointing to the different circumstances under which they were written or executed, will no doubt throw some light on the spirit and motives which respectively dictated them.

Azim-ul-Omra said he would send me copies of all these papers to-day for the information of the Governor General ; though he had not yet, he observed, transmitted them to Hyderabad, for providential reasons, having reference chiefly to his distrust of Imtiauz-ud-Dowlah and the Roy Royaun . I should therefore no doubt perceive, he added, the propriety of divulging them as little as possible . I requested of the Minister to forward them to me through you , but you will of course detain them when they reach you, and furnish government with translations of them at your convenience

Azim-ul-Omra would not acknowledge that he had received any regular or official intimation either on the part of Bajee Row or of Sindeah, that they had objections to the execution of the engagements entered into with him by Balajee Pundit . but besides admitting that reports to this effect had reached him from various quarters, it was easy to discover from the tenor of his answers to my enquiries, respecting the cause of his detention at Poonah, that the ruling powers were by no means prepared to fulfil the stipulations contained in No. 1 in their utmost extent . He confessed indeed, that Balajee Pundit had advised him not to stick for too much at present, but to accept what he could get, and leave the rest to

time and chance ; relying always on his (Balajee's) inviolable determination, to miss no favourable occasion for fulfilling every title of his engagements to him. I took this opportunity to urge the immense importance of his early return to Hyderabad ; and to express my persuasion, that he would not allow the pursuit of any inferior advantage to divert him from so material and pressing an object. He hereupon desired Ragotim Rao to remark what I had said, and then added " that by the blessing of God, he should soon be able to depart ; that he had indeed, not long since received an intimation from Bajee Row, that he was ready to dismiss him ; but that I must be satisfied it would not be proper for him to repair to Hyderabad without accomplishing anything for his master's benefit."

He particularly desired I would request of you to continue to communicate freely with him ; and to inculcate, by every means in your power, on the Court of Poonah the propriety and reasonableness of its faithfully fulfilling the engagements entered into by Nana, and generally ratified by Bajee Row.

As the Paishcush, on account of the first Kist of the Fusli Year 1206, falls due on the 31st instant, it occurred to me that by paying as much as possible of it at Poonah to Azim-ul-Omra, instead of at Hyderabad, a saving would accrue to the Company in the amount of the premium usually demanded of me by the bankers for bills of exchange on the latter place, and that the measure might, at the same time, be an acceptable accommodation to him, considering the great pecuniary calls upon him in his present situation. I accordingly mentioned the matter to him last night, when he very thankfully availed himself of the offer ; and said he would procure the necessary authority from the Nizam for the purpose which, as usual, will be addressed (in my absence) to my assistant, Captain Kirkpatrick. In the interim you may perhaps see no objection to making some preparatory arrangement on the occasion, advising Captain Kirkpatrick, as soon as you may be able, of the amount you are likely to procure for bills on Calcutta, Moorshedabad, or, in the last resort, Benares ; to the end that he may set about raising the remainder of the half yearly Kist (or $3\frac{1}{2}$ lacks) at Hyderabad by the same means.

I am too weak and indisposed, as well as too much fatigued after my journey to-day to enter into any further detail of what last passed between me and Azim-ul-Omra during my stay at Poonah ; but I believe I have omitted nothing very material. I must not, however, forget to mention that Azim-ul-Omra informed me of his having a few days ago sent a party of 500 horse to a village belonging to Gobind Rao Kishen (the late Mahrattah Vakeel at the Court of Hyderabad) not far from Poonah, where surprising and seizing Bundah-Ali-Khan, the son of Mahomed Azeem-Khan (now a prisoner in the fort of Golcondah) they conveyed him immediately to Purrainda. The Minister suspecting, and probably not

without good reason, that Gobind Kisen who is his irreconcilable enemy, had taken this young man under his protection with no friendly view to the government of Hyderabad, determined on securing the person of the latter in the first instance, and afterwards to apologize for the proceedings which have since, it would seem, been applauded at least by Balajee Pundit, without being complained of by any one; and whence it may be inferred that the credit of Govind Kisen is not at present considerable, either with Bajee Row or with Balajee Pundit.

Azim-ul-Omrah, on my taking leave of him last night presented me, according to custom, with a dress of five cloths, a string of pearls, a Jaigha, and a Surpaich. The latter of these, or the jewels, I beg the favor of you to forward to my Assistant Captain Kirkpatrick, as I am not likely to have any occasion for them in my absence from Hyderabad.

P.S. Should it be necessary, you will perhaps see no objection to reminding Azim-ul-Omra of his promise to transmit me, for the knowledge of the Governor General, copies of the papers communicated to me last night.

No. 7—Uthhoff forwards to the G. G. copies of important documents from the Peshwa's court together with comments explaining their nature. They refer to the activities of Azim-ul-Omrah.

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR J SHORE, BART, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 27th March 1797.

I have now the honour to enclose translations of the papers mentioned in the 1st paragraph of my last address of the 24th instant, and in Major Kirkpatrick's letter to me of the 20th instant, to which are added Azim-ul-Omra's letter to Major Kirkpatrick, accompanying the papers in question, and a note from Nanna Furnaves to Ragotim Row, which may be considered as a ratification of the engagement between the former and Azim-ul-Omra.

I have inserted some explanatory notes in the margin of the abovementioned papers in addition to which, the few following remarks, in further elucidation of them, may not be superfluous.

A very common mode of transacting business, particularly in affairs of state, among the natives in this quarter, is for one party to present the other a paper called Yaad (Memorial, a Memorandum) of demands or requests; to which the other subjoins his sentiments; which latter writing is called "Mukhliseh", and seems equivalent to a ratification. In affairs of great importance, as that in question, the Yaad is occasionally

divided into separate articles, each of which is closed with the words "one article" to preclude probably any subsequent interpolation. After each article the other party writes his "Mukhliseh", or ratification by which latter the parties are considered to be bound, rather than by the preceding article, in cases in which the "articles" and "Mukhliseh" differ in spirit or letter.

In the papers under consideration, it would appear either that Azim-ul-Omra had delivered to Nana Furnavis or his agents for ratification, a Yaad as if prepared in the name of Nana or, that Nana or his agents had submitted to Azim-ul-Omra a Yaad containing the general principles, on which he was willing to enter into an engagement with him, subject to future modification, which was settled by the Mukhliseh executed by Nanna, or his agents (probably Govin Pingle). At all events, the letter and spirit of the "Mukhliseh", which I have included between crochets [thus] are what both parties are bound by. It may be presumed, that Azim-ul-Omra has given Nanna Furnavees and Dowlut Row Sindea counterparts of their respective engagements. It will be observed, that there is some difference in form between Nana's and Dowlut Row's engagements to Azim-ul-Omra.

The engagement between Azim-ul-Omra and Dowlut Row is dated 3rd November 1796, though in Dowlut Row's subsequent letter, it is alluded to as being dated the 2nd. This is probably a mere literal error; the seizure of Balloo Tantea &ca, and the flight from Poona of Pursaram Bhow &ca whence may be dated the last revolution, that is, on the 27th October which will, perhaps, account for the omission of the "Mukhliseh" to the 4th article.

Kishna and Bannajee Huzra are brothers, and were originally menial servants, the former having been placed by the late Mhadjee Sindea about the person of Dowlut Row, while the latter was still a child. Dowlut Row has since conferred on him the command of a Pagha (Corps of the cavalry) and he is considered as the most confidential minister of Dowlut Row. Bannajee Huzra is said to enjoy the confidence of Baajy Row, and is usually near his person.

In further elucidation of the accompanying papers, I purpose submitting some queries to Azim-ul-Omra, which shall be communicated to you with his answer when I receive them.

I have the honour to enclose a letter from Tukojee Holkar to your address in reply to the annunciation of your intended visit to the Nawaub Vizier, which as usual I have taken the liberty to open, to inform myself of its contents.

Of the pieces of cannon presented by Lord Cornwallis to the Peshwa, at the conclusion of the peace of Syringapattun, seven have lately been given by Baajy Row to Dowlut Sindeah.

Sir Charles Malet acquaints me that he has taken his passage for Europe on the Albion Indiaman, which is expected to sail from Bombay about the beginning of May.

Translation of a letter from Azim-ul-Omra to Major Wm. Kirkpatrick, without date.

Received and opened by Mr. Joshua Uthhoff 21st March 1797.

Your departure took place on the 20th Rumzaun.

The remembrance of our meetings overwhelms me with sorrow for their discontinuance. By the grace of God I trust that we may soon again meet happily. The copies of the papers that you are acquainted with, I have delivered to Mr. Uthhoff. They will be received by you and I have to request you will acknowledge them. During our absence favor me with frequent accounts of your welfare.

No. 8—Secret agreement concluded by Nana Fadnis with Azim-ul-Umra, mentioned in Uthhoff's letter of 27th March 1797. The footnotes on this paper are original.

7th October 1796.

Yad (Memorial or Memorandum) engagement between the Sirkar of Huzrut Bundegan Ally Nizam Allı Khan Behauder, through the mediation of Azim-ul-Omra Behaudur, with Balajee Junardun (Nana Furnavees) Soor Sun Subba Tessey 1197, or 1206 Fuslee or 1211 Hijree) A D 1796/7

Great confusions have arisen in the Sirkar of Sreemunt Pundit Purdhaun (the Peshwa) I (Nana) went to Mhar, since which time, the affairs of the state have not been properly conducted. By negotiations and measures in concert, Nizam Ally Khan and I must endeavour to preserve the state. This is the most ardent wish of my heart. Through the mediation of Azim-ul-Omra this engagement is made. Whither my (Nana's) conduct hitherto has been well or ill judged, no suspicion or distrust is to remain in your (Nizam Ally Khan's) mind. Whatever has happened is now past. For the future, I (Nana) will conduct myself in a manner agreeable to good faith, and to ensure confidence. Azim-ul-Omra is the Prime Minister of your state and I am the well-wisher and Manager of the affairs of Pundit Purdhaun. We two are to act in concert, by whatever means the prosperity of our two states can be promoted, so are we both to act. From this there is never to be any deviation. To preserve the prosperity of Pundit Purdhaun, and to maintain the rights of this well-wisher (Nana), Nizam Ally Khan and Azim-ul-Omra are to do all they can. Whatever is for the benefit of Nizam Ally Khan and

Azim-ul-Omra will be done by Pundit Purdhaun and me. In this whoever commits any deviation, is guilty of breach of his oath. 1 Article. (Agreeably to this, we are both to act).

Dowlut Row Sindea is a great chief in the state of Pundit Purdhaun. His Minister Ballajee Anant (Ballo Tantea) and others, acting improperly in concert with Pursaram Bhow, have put Bajy Row in confinement. Therefore the cavalry, infantry and warlike stores of your state (Nizam Ally Khan's), and the Huzrat, and other troops of Pundit Purdhaun's, and Seyna Saheb Suba Ragojee Bhonsla, uniting will bring Bajy Row and Chimna Appa together. In this affair, whatever is requisite will be done by the troops of Nizam Ally Khan and Azim-ul-Omra with 15,000 horse and 15,000 foot, with warlike stores, will act in concert with this well-wisher Nana. The English Company Behauder will aid this well-wisher, but if not, they will at least do nothing to our detriment. This I have settled. 1 Article. (Agreeably to the above Nizam Ally Khan and Azim-ul-Omra must act).

Districts &c of your (Nizam Ally Khan's) Sirkar, including the fort of Dowlutabad and money were agreed to be ceded at Kurdla. The acknowledgments that were then taken from you for the whole of that country, fort and money, will be restored to you, (i.e., the engagements will be cancelled); besides which the engagements that were entered into at Yadgherry* (or Edgheery) between the two states, are to be firm. The country will be restored, and whatever balances may remain due to the Peshwa, will not be claimed. The arrears of Chout of Adoni, Bheer, the Suba of Bidder, &c were, agreeably to the convention of Kurdla, to be paid to us (the Peshwa). This is now revoked. To the end of the year 1204, the claims of arrears of Chout for Adoni &c are cancelled. From 1205 Fuslee, Chout for Adoni &c is to be given agreeably to former custom. 1 Article. (Agreed)

Whatever engagements now subsist between Seyna Saheb Suba Ragojee Bhonsla and you (Nizam Ally Khan) will, after the engagements are completed between the two states (the Peshwa and Nizam Ally Khan), be settled in concert. 1 Article.

(Having settled the Sarkar's (Peshwa's) business, we will in concert settle this.)

Dehli†, Dasna, &c mahals, belong to your Sirkar (Nizam Ally Khan) from former times; lately through the mediation of Sindea, they have been restored, and one mahal was agreed to be hereafter delivered to you. Agreeably thereto, a representation shall be made to Sindea, and the mahal in question shall be restored. 1 Article.

(It will be thus settled.)

*At the commencement of the Budammy war in 1785-6.

† I conceive this to mean some possessions within the city or district of Dehli-Shajehanabad.

Whatever disputes on points of detail have hitherto existed between the two states, both states are to relinquish mutually; and for the time to come, whatever my (the Peshwa's) share* may be, is to be given every year, agreeably to former custom. The affairs of the mahals, country, forts, &c., are to be conducted agreeably to former custom. 1 Article.

(Whatever balances may remain respectively on the districts of either, are not be required. Agreeably to this engagement, both states are to act.)

It is very much the wish of your state (Nizam Ally Khan's) from former times, that the Chout of Bidder should be relinquished. Your consideration is duly directed towards both states. Bajy Row is master, and this is an affair of Wuttun†. Therefore I swear, that I will induce Bajy Row to concede this point. 1 Article.

(This point is conceded for the personal satisfaction of his His Highness.)

Ragojee Bhonsla is to come and join us soon. 1 Article.

(We two are to write to him to this effect.)

You, (Nizam Ally Khan, or Azim-ul-Omra) say that I (Nana) am to give Bhonsla twenty lacks of rupees. I will give him ten. 1 Article.

• (If he comes and joins us at a proper season, the money is his. otherwise, it is to be considered as a loan.)

Tippoo's forces will not take part in this affair. This point you (Nizam Ally Khan) are to settle in concert with the English Company Behaeder. 1 Article.

(They will not take part. If however, they do, you and I, and the English Company are to act agreeably to the engagements that were entered into at Syringaputtun.)

There are traitors and intrigues against your (Nizam Ally Khan's) state in the Peshwa's dominions, on whom you have pecuniary claims. Establish the justice of your claims, and they shall be liquidated. 1 Article.

[This engagement is to be reciprocal (between both states)]

I (Nana) will procure the ratification of Sreemunt Bajy Row to the above. 1 Article.

(Agreed)

Your Sirkar and mine are one and the same. If any one makes any evil representation to you against me, you are not to attend thereto, and you are to make the same known to me; and whatever adversary may start up against either state, we two are to unite together to chastize him, and between ourselves there is not to be any difference or evasion. 1 Article.

(Agreed)

*Chout, Surdaismookhy &c.

†Which may I think be rendered in this place, "ancient patrimony" the Chout of Bidder having for many years appertained to the Peshwas

Agreeably to the above articles of engagement, we are to act with good faith. We are to be for ever sincere friends and allies. 1 Article.

(These engagements are to be reciprocal.)

The above are 14 articles, dated 6th Rubby-u-Sawny, month Aswin, Sun Subba Tesseyn (A.D. 7th October 1796).

True Translation.

(Signed) J. UHTHOFF.

No. 9—Uthhoff submits to the G. G.'s decision two points, viz. Amritrao's request for a Brahmin being set free who was convicted by the sessions court of Bombay and the dispute about Maratha claims for the Chauth on Surat.

FROM—MR. JOSHUA UHTHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.*

Poona, 31st March 1797.

A few days ago I received a message from Emrutrao to the following purport. That the friends of the Brahmin who was condemned to death at the quarter sessions at Bombay some time ago, but whose life had been spared at the intercession of this Court, through Sir Charles Malet, had represented to him (Emrutrao) that as Sir Charles was now about to proceed to Europe, they knew not what might be done with the Brahmin in question, adding at the same time that as the Brahmin had now suffered a very long imprisonment it was earnestly requested that he might be set at liberty.

I have fully explained to Emrutrao that it was no small sacrifice on our part to spare, at the intercession of the Peshwa, the life of the Brahmin which was forfeited to our laws and to the good of our society; that the late Peshwa was so sensible of this that he preferred his request as a matter of indulgence solely, adding that, were the Brahmin's life but saved, it was all he asked, having not the smallest objection to his being confined the rest of his days, or to any other punishment that we might think proper to inflict. I have further urged, that we could not reconcile to our principles of justice to let loose upon the public, either within our own jurisdiction or in a foreign country, particularly so friendly a one as the Peshwa's, a criminal, whose conduct had been of so heinous a nature as to deserve death.

I have endeavoured to put Emrutrao on his guard against persons in this state, so insidiously disposed as to view with an envious eye the good

*This and a few of the following letters were obtained from the Bombay Secretariat records.

understanding subsisting between his family and the Company, and to be constantly in search of means to undermine it, in the prosecution of which they would suggest to him to prefer such requests to us, as it might be impracticable for us to comply with, and thence draw inferences to our disadvantage.

In conclusion, I have signified to Emrutrao that to show how favourably disposed we were to attend to every request of his, I would submit to you, Honourable Sir, the affairs of the Brahmin and the Bhut, but that I could not, for the reasons above mentioned, venture to give him any hopes of success.

In further elucidation of the two affairs in question, I beg leave to refer you to Sir Charles Malet's letter to the Bombay Government, dated 28th October 1793, and to the enclosed translation of a paper furnished me by Emrutrao.

Should you be pleased, Honourable Sir, to comply with Emrutrao's requisition on these two points, I beg to submit to you whether a favourable opportunity may not thereby be afforded to request his good offices to effect the relinquishment of the Maratha chauth on Surat, or at least to withdraw the Peshwa's chouthia from that city, on the Company becoming responsible to the Peshwa for the payment of a certain sum annually on account of the chauth; either of which, if complied with, will be a most desirable acquisition to us, as frequently explained in the course of Sir Charles Malet's correspondence; and if rejected, will afford ground for our declining with these kinds of requests, and will probably check them in future; indeed, it is my intention in conformity to the spirit of repeated instructions from the Government General to Sir Charles Malet, to avail myself of any favourable opportunity that may offer to solicit the relinquishment of the Maratha chaut, both Peshwa's and Gaikwad's, on Surat; and should this grand acquisition, as there is reason to expect, not be attainable, to confine myself to soliciting the removal from Surat of both Maratha chouthias with their dependants, and to commute the chouth for a certain sum of money, to be paid annually to the Peshwa and Gaikwad, for which the Company will be responsible.

No. 10—In this illuminating letter Uthoff gives a graphic account of the internal condition and respective positions of the Maratha and the Nizam's states

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON. SIR JOHN SHORE, G G

Poona, 1st May 1797

It has been intimated to me, through a credible channel, that Nana has again within these few days solicited Bajy Row for leave to retire

to Mennoly near Wyhe, or to Mhar in the Kokun, on pretence of his age and infirmities precluding his conducting the affairs of the state with advantage under their present embarrassment, in which Bajy Row is said to have refused his acquiescence, on the plea of the services both of Nana and Dowlut Row Sindia being indispensably requisite to the good conduct of the affairs of the State.

A variety of corroborating circumstances induces me to give credit to the general rumour here that Nana, Ragojee Bhonsla and Azim-ul-Omra continue to act in concert. Indeed the latter assures me that he has confidence in the two former.

The domestic affairs of the state, which, however, are involved in considerable embarrassment, are managed almost exclusively by Nana, by which he is in all probability replenishing his coffers, while the household of the Peshwa are in extreme distress for even the necessities of life, depending for their subsistence on Nana, the state treasury being empty and Bajy Row not having any command of either cash or credit.

Rajjee Patell the nominal Prime Minister of Dowlut Row Sindia keeps aloof in disgust and is thought to have a good understanding with Nana. Bhow Bukshy seems to enjoy but little of his master's confidence or influence in the state, nor does Narrain Row Bukshy appear to possess either great talents, or much influence. Dowlut Row's most confidential council is composed of Kishna and Bannajee Huzra, Serjajy Gautky, a Mahratta, and Jadoo Row Bhasker, a Bramin. The latter has been lately introduced by Kishna Huzrah and is said to possess some talents, but with a very bad character. He was formerly Dewan to Futtu Sing Guykewar after whose death he was confined in irons by Mannajee till the accession of Govin Row, who released him. Many of Dowlut Sindia's well wishers apprehend a reverse of fortune to him from the want of respectability in the persons who have the principal management of his affairs here; his troops are now very considerably in arrears, and their attachment to their present service seems chiefly ascribable to the licentiousness they enjoy and the eclat they derive from the name of their late and present master.

Azim-ul-Umra acquaints me, that both Bajy Row and Sindia agree to grant three-fourths of the Kurdla cessions, Doulatabad not included, to which he has not yet acceded.

Meer Nizam-ud-Deen, one of Azim-ul-Omra's officers, having obtained permission to proceed on a visit to Surat, by the way of Bombay, Azim-ul-Omrah charged him with a commission to Sir Charles Malet to the following effect, directing him to communicate it, in the first instance to me, which he accordingly did on the 29th ultimo: 1st, to solicit Sir Charles Malet's good offices to effect the revocation of the present restriction in the operations of the Company's Detachment acting with the Nizam and

to allow of its acting without reserve in all cases in which His Highness might think proper to employ it; 2nd, that at present the Nizam's Infantry amounted to about forty thousand men, above half of whom were irregulars whose reduction appeared advisable, and that Azim-ul-Omra wished to replace them by regulars under European Officers, for which purpose he requested Sir Charles Malet would supply him with two or three of our Military Officers who might be worthy of his confidence

To form a general offensive and defensive engagement between the Company and the Nizam; I collected from Meer Nizam-ud-Deen that Azim-ul-Omra's object in the arrangements was threefold to provide against the encroachments of the Mahrattas; to strengthen his own party against that of his adversaries at his Highness's Court, and to maintain the integrity of the Asof Jah Sirkar after the demise of the Nizam In respect to the second point Azim-ul-Omrah observed, that when he came over to the Mahrattas at the convention of Kurdla it was not from necessity, for the Mahrattas had not demanded it, nor did the Nizam himself desire it, but that it was from apprehension of his domestic enemies at his master's Court, the *Pauga* Chiefs in particular, who from the misfortunes and disgrace that his Highness then laboured under, would probably have undermined his (Azim-ul-Omrah's) influence and even deprived him of life; that though he had latterly recovered his influence with his Highness, yet had his enemies again made some progress in undermining it As to the 3rd point, the Nizam could not be prevailed upon to nominate a successor during his life time, and that on his demise there would, in all probability, be a contest among five or six of his sons which, but for the interposition of the Company, threatened the annihilation of the Asof Jah State

In the course of conversation Nizam-ud-Deen acquainted me, that Azim-ul-Omrah had at present confidence in Ragotim Rao, whose fidelity and exertions he had endeavoured to secure by the most honourable and lucrative marks of attention, one of which was the appointment of Mustofer-Kul, an office possessing, I understand, a general control over all the accounts of the state.

Balloo Tantia and Doandebow are still in confinement at Jamgaum, and Pursaram Bhow at Mandogun Behroo Pundit is at Rayghur, and said to be in irons Most of the other principal adherents of the late usurpation are confined in hill forts.

I understand that Nana has amply supplied his two principal hill forts of Rayghur and Loghur with troops, provisions and military stores and it is said that most of his principal adherents have made preparations for moving from Poona.

No. 11—Uthhoff reports the distressful condition of the Peshwa's Court, particularly for want of cash.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 5th May 1797.

On the 3rd instant I received a message from Ragotim Row to the following purport. That Nana had represented to him that he (Nana) laboured under great obloquy from the idea which prevailed, that he was the cause of the Nizam's non-acquiescence in the Peishwa's wishes respecting the engagements that had lately passed between the two Courts through Azim-Ul-Omrah, in consequence of which, for the satisfaction of Bajy Row and Dowlut Row Sindea, he recommended Azim-ul-Omrah's acquiescence in the relinquishment of one-fourth of the Kurdla cessions, including the fort of Doulatabad and one-fourth of the ten lacks of rupees of Chout on Bidder, and in the payment of one-fourth of the two crores of rupees that had been settled at Kurdla, the remaining one crore and ten lacks of rupees having been on account of Durbar expenses; Azim-Ul-Omrah, on his part, required in consideration of compliance with Nana's terms that the forts of Ahmudnuggur and Solapore should be ceded by the Peishwa to the Nizam, with which Nana did not shew any disposition to comply, and Ragotim Row intimated to me that Azim-Ul-Omrāh did not seem inclined to make any concessions to the Poona Court. Ragotim Row observed to me that Ahmudnuggur formerly belonged to Nizam Ally Khan, that it was delivered up to the Mahrattas through the treachery of the Killadar, and that it had not ever been formerly granted by Nizam Ally Khan to the Mahrattas.

There are two places of some consequence of the name of Solapore, Sholapour, Shorapore or Sorapore, one belonging to the Peshwa and the other to a chief who pays tribute, I understand, both to Nizam Ally Khan and the Mahrattas.

Ragotim Row was pleased to ask my friendly counsel on this state of affairs. With acknowledgments for the frank and friendly tenor of his communications, I replied that our Government, Sir Charles Mælet, and myself have the utmost respect for adherence to engagements and justice, and every possible goodwill towards the Nizam and Azim-Ull-Omrah which would be shewn in all cases that did not intrench on the rights of others; that we had already even gone so far as to recommend in the most impressive manner to the Peshwa and Nana adherence to engagements.

It is said to be in agitation to place new men in most of the principal offices under the Sindean Government taking from them a pecuniary

consideration. Dowlut Row is extremely importunate with Rouba for the liquidation of his demand on Govind Row Guykewau. Indeed both the Peshwa and Sindean Government are much in want of cash and have recourse to the most oppressive exactions. Among the rest the Peshwa is raising a forced loan from the Soukars, to evade which four of the principal quitted Poonah the night of the 3rd instant, and took protection in the camp of Dowlut Row Sindea and Tukojee Holkar.

A tax is said to be in agitation which cannot fail to be productive if enforced with vigor. The Mahratta subject is to be called upon for a contribution of congratulation on Bajy Row's accession to the Peishwaship, to which should reluctance be shewn, he is to be mulcted for disaffection.

I am assured that within these few days the Bramins in general in this quarter have taken their money out of the hands of the soukars which, with the immense sums requisite for the subsistence of the numerous hosts in this neighbourhood, and the forced loan, have subjected the Soukars to much distress for ready cash, and preclude my raising any supplies either for the Bombay Government, or the payment of the Peishcush, my bills on Calcutta, Moorshedabad or Benares not being negotiable at present.

I understand that Ragojee Bhonsla is sending away his baggage and the most inefficient part of his followers, which is thought to be preparatory to the departure of the whole.

It appears to be a generally received opinion in this quarter that Bajy Row does not possess the requisite talents or temper for the due administration of the affairs of a great state, particularly one so dreadfully convulsed by intestine contentions as that of the Mahrattas.

Azim-ul-Omrah is still about forty miles to the eastward of Poona, where, I understand, his followers are committing great depredations.

On the fourth instant Bajy Row, Chimna Appa, and Emrut Row paid a visit to Dowlut Row Sindea.

No. 12—Uthtoff reports the settlement of terms between Azim-ul-Omrah and Bajirao

FROM—J. UHTHOFF, POONA,

TO—THE HON SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 12th May 1797

I have just received a message from Azim-ul-Omrah that the Peshwa has agreed to restore to the Nizam three fourths of the Kurdla cessions including the fort of Doulatabaud, which he (Azim-ul-Omrah) has accepted, and will in consequence prosecute his journey towards

Hyderabad in a very few days, without however relinquishing his claim to the other fourth. Azim-Ul-Omrah further intimated to me that it was in agitation for Emrutrao or Abba Salookur to wait on him in a day or two with the sunnuds and papers agreeably to the above conditions, but that he himself (Azim-Ul-Omrah) has not yet entered into any written engagements to the above effect, nor did he mean to do so. Azim-Ul-Omrah added that the fort of Ahmudnuggur was to be granted to Dowlut Row Scindeah who, he understood, would shortly proceed to Hindostan.

Meer Fakir-Ud-Deen Hussein, the Moonshy of this Residency, is just returned from Emrut Row, who acquainted him that affairs were settled between the Peshwa and the Nizam by the former restoring to the latter three fourths of the Kurdla cession, including the fort of Dowlutabaud, and that there was some prospect of his (Emrut Row's) being deputed to Azim-Ul-Omrah with the requisite papers, &c. That affairs were also settled between the Peshwa and Ragojee Bhonsla by granting to the latter the fort of Gurrauh Mundullaah and relinquishing half the claim of twenty-six lacks on account of peishcush due by him to the Peishwa. That the fort of Ahmudnuggur was to be ceded to Dowlut Row Sindea who was desirous of withdrawing his guards from the Peishwa's palace, to which latter Bajy Row objected, but would probably be prevailed upon to accede on the final departure from this quarter of Azim-Ul-Omrah and Ragojee Bhonsla; that Nana solicited leave to retire; and observed that if Dowlut Row Sindea was to remain in this quarter, he should be attended but by a small body of troops.

Bappoo, the eldest son of Abba Chitnavees, about twenty years of age, has lately been invested by Dowlut Row Sindea with the office of Chitnaveese; and Kishna Chitnaveese, Abba's brother, has been been invested with the command of a Paugah, and admitted into the Sindean councils, oaths of strict union having previously passed between him and Kishna Hujra. I understand that Lullobhye who has been for some time past in confinement, has been re-instated in his former situation at Broach, on payment of five lacks of rupees. It is said that Kishna Chitnaveese has obtained the release of his brother Gopal Row.

No. 13—Uththoff suggests to the Bombay authorities an exchange of Bankot for the Maratha claims on Surat.

FROM—THE ASSISTANT TO THE RESIDENT AT POONA,
TO—THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL AT BOMBAY.

Poona, 21st May 1797.

Hon'ble Sirs,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Morris's letter of the 10th instant with its several enclosures, and to assure you that

it would afford me infinite gratification to contribute to the completion of your wishes for the removal of the Peshwa's and Gaikwad's chouteas from the city of Surat, towards which highly desirable object you may be assured, that no endeavours on my part shall be wanting, though I beg leave, at the same time to submit to you an apprehension, with which I am deeply impressed, founded on my knowledge of the ambitious, intriguing and encroaching spirit of the Marathas, that they will not readily relinquish the footing they have established at Surat for even much more than a pecuniary equivalent, if, indeed, they can be induced to relinquish it for any consideration whatever that we can, in prudence, make to them.

I am in consequence inclined to think, that neither the Peshwa nor Gaikwad would consent to withdraw their chouteas from Surat, even were the Hon'ble Company to engage to pay them regularly the average amount of their annual collections for these twenty or thirty years past, or even according to the highest annual amount collected during that period, though such an arrangement would relieve both the Peshwa and Gaikwad from very great trouble, vexation, and expense, in which they are both at present involved, in the support of their influence at Surat through the chouteas and their numerous dependants

I beg leave to submit to you, Hon'ble Sir, whether it might not be an eligible arrangement for the Hon'ble Company to surrender the district of Bancot to the Peshwa in exchange for his share of the chauth, and the present crisis seems particularly favourable for setting on foot a negotiation for this purpose, because the district and river of Bancot have now a peculiar value in the estimation of Nana Furnavees, the prime minister of this State and his numerous adherents, particularly Dada Gujra, the Subahdar of the Konkan, as being the door of Mhar and Rayghur where Nana lately found a secure retreat during the prevalence of the opposite party, and where, considering the distracted state of affairs in the Maratha Empire, it is not by any means improbable that he may again seek an asylum, of which, indeed, he seems fully aware, as he has long, I understand, been busily employed, and still continues to, in supplying the fort of Rayghur with provisions, military stores, &c, in the course of which, he finds considerable check from our port at Fort Victoria, which commands the navigable river between the sea and Mhar and Rayghur, the acquisition of which, there is at present every reason to suppose, would be a most desirable object to him, and though our surrender thereof would necessarily be to the head of the Maratha Empire (the Peshwa), Nana possesses at present that kind of influence in the State, which would in all probability enable him to convert it into his own purpose without any detriment to us

The desirableness to us of removing the Maratha chouteas from Surat has ever been admitted in the fullest manner by the Government General and the Government of Bombay, and was very fully discussed during

Sir Charles Malet's residence at Poona, in the course of which Bancot was formerly suggested as an eligible exchange for the Maratha chout on Surat; from the records of this Presidency, indeed, I derive my chief information on the subject.

As the Government General have repeatedly authorised this Residency to endeavour to effect the removal of the Maratha chouthias from Surat, and as a delay of a further reference on the subject to Calcutta does not appear in any point of view necessary and might defeat this important public object, for the attainment of which the present period seems, as above described, peculiarly auspicious, I shall be ready to set on foot a negotiation for this purpose with this Court immediately, if you will authorise my offering Bancot in exchange, or on any other conditions you may think proper to prescribe, without intrenching on the duty and respect that I owe to my immediate superiors, the Government General.

For the complete elucidation of the merits of this question it will of course, be desirable to ascertain in the clearest manner the pecuniary value of the districts of Bancot to the Company and other advantages we have hitherto derived therefrom, or of which the situation is susceptible, and I presume that the records of your Government will afford the fullest and most satisfactory information on these important points.

In the interim of reference to those authentic documents, I beg leave to submit to you such information on the subject, as the records of this Residency supply.

The average of the receipts at Bancot for the years 1787/8 and 1788/9 was 12,756 Rupees $\times \times$ reas per annum, and the average of the disbursements of the same period was Rupees 33,958- $\times \times$ 79 reas per annum, the latter being nearly three times the amount of the former; so that in a pecuniary point of view Bancot is rather a burthen than an advantage to the Company, an object of considerable embarrassment and loss.

In some other points of view, however, Bancot may be considered of advantage to the Company, and I beg leave to submit to you such objects of this description as have occurred to me, of the real value of which I am but very imperfectly informed. The acquisition of cattle from the Siddi's country for the use of Bombay was, I understand, the most important advantage expected to be derived from Bancot at the time it came into our possession; but this has, I believe, lost much of its original intrinsic value by the superior facility with which we have of late years procured cattle from Surat, where our influence is considerably increased since our acquisition of Bancot. Another advantage that we derive from Bancot is, I believe, in the article of recruits for our native military establishment; and supplies for our troops on the Malabar coast, of cattle, provisions and other necessaries, have been occasionally furnished from Bancot; and through Bancot from Sir Charles Malet at Poona, during the late war

against Tippoo Sultan; which latter supplies in particular were indeed important, but could perhaps have been forwarded with equal facility, through the ports of Bombay, Panwell, Bassein, &ca, or through Bancot itself, even had it been in the possession of the Marathas. Perhaps the disposal of some of our staples from Europe may be promoted by our possession of Bancot, and Bombay may perhaps be supplied through that channel with firewood, fowls, cocoanuts, &ca.

The removal of the Peshwa's choutea from Surat, would relieve us from by far the most dangerous and vexatious part of our embarrassments there; and would, in all probability, combined with the good understanding subsisting between the Company and the Gaikwad, greatly facilitate the removal of the latter's choutea, and render him comparatively innoxious to us. I may, perhaps, be able to open a negotiation for the withdrawal of the Gaikwad's choutea from Surat through Rauba, Govind Rao's present minister at this Court.

Should what I have here the honour to submit to you, Hon'ble Sir, occasion the surrender of Bancot to the Marathas, one of the very few eligible situations for a senior civil servant on the Bombay establishment will be sacrificed to the public good, and you will, I trust, in that case provide in an eligible manner for Mr Charles Watkins, the present worthy Resident at fort Victoria, and shield me from the odium of having contributed to the reduction of the present scanty advantages enjoyed by the senior civil servants on my own establishment, who already labour under but too much depression and degradation. By the present regulations of the Civil Service on the Bombay establishment there are thirty-four senior merchants, among whom the Resident at Poona and his assistant, and the Resident at fort Victoria, are specifically included by the Court of Directors in their orders of the 8th April 1789. The two former situations for Bombay servants are abolished by the determination of the Government General to fill them by Bengal servants, civil or military. I forbear pursuing this invidious subject further, or the Malabar province would furnish abundant instances of the defectiveness of the present regulations for the civil service on the Bombay establishment, by which I, in common with many others, have been subjected to considerable loss of rank and property in violation of covenants, equity, and reason, as represented to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors in the year 1792/3, to which I have not yet received an answer.

Sir Charles Malet's intimate acquaintance with the general interests of the Hon'ble the Company on this side of India, and more especially with the specific points in question, will enable him to supply the defects of the above representation; and with the assistance of the records of your Presidency to place the whole subject in the most conspicuous, and satisfactory point of view.

[At a Council on 24th May 1797 the above letter was read. The Board are of opinion that as the desirableness of the addition of the Maratha chouth on the city of Surat depends in a great measure on its including both branches, the Peshwa's and the Gaikwad's, Resolved that Mr. Uthhoff be requested in the first instance to apprise the Board of his grounds of expectation of succeeding in a negotiation for that purpose with the Gaikwad as well as with the Peshwa, which latter has been already explained.]

No. 14—Uthhoff reports the death of a wife of the Raja of Satara and the meeting of Bajirao and Nana Fadnis.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF, POONA,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 23rd May 1797.

A few days ago departed this life the wife of the Raja of Sattara, on which account the beating of the Nobut was suspended by the chiefs in this quarter for three days.

The above was written on the 22nd being post day, but the dawk having been detained at Bombay, affords me the opportunity to add that on the 22nd Bajy Row signified his wish to have a meeting with Nana Furnavees, which took place in the course of the afternoon at a celebrated pagoda in this neighbourhood, after which Nana held a consultation with Abba Selokar, Govin Pingleh, and Ragotim Row. This is the only time that the Peishwa and Nana have met for upwards of a month. I have reason to think that Ragotim Row will proceed this afternoon to join Azim-ul-Omrah.

I have the honor to enclose copy of my letter of this date to the Assistant at Hyderabad.

No. 15—Uthhoff reports the visits of Bajirao to Raghuji Bhosle and Nana Fadnis and the rumoured intrigue of the French with Tipu Sultan against the English.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17th June 1797.

On the 13th instant, Dowlut Row Sindia went into town with a very large retinue, and paid visits both to Bajy Row and to Nana Furnavees,

being the only meeting that has taken place between him and Nana for a considerable time of distrust apparent on both sides.

The ensuing day Ragojee Bhonsla waited on Bajy Row for the first time for near four months, to invite him to an entertainment in his camp. Nana was present at the Durbar at this meeting, after which Ragojee Bhonsla proceeded to Nana's house to invite him also, and in the evening Bajy Row accordingly paid a visit to Ragojee Bhonsla, accompanied by Chimna Appa, Emrut Row and his son Nana, Baba Furkia, and many other persons of consequence. Ragojee Bhonsla presented an elephant, horse, jewels, and cloths to the Peshwa and his two brothers and to Nana, and made suitable presents to the other persons who attended the Peshwa. This is considered as preliminary to Ragojee Bhonsla's early return to Naugpore, and it is expected that he will take leave of the Peshwa in a very few days.

On the 14th instant, Dada Gujra returned to Poona, but it does not appear either that Moroba Furnavees has been removed from Ahmednugger, nor that that fort is in the possession of Dowlut Row Sindia.

On the same day Malhar Row Holkar paid a visit of apparent reconciliation to his father Tukojee, who invited Kasi Row to attend on the occasion, but the latter excused himself on the plea that if Malhar Row were sincere, he ought to pay a visit to him (Kasi Row)

One of Azim-ul-Omrah's officers of some consideration has confidentially communicated to me, that he had learnt from Azim-ul-Omrah himself that some engagements had lately taken place between the French and Tippoo of a hostile tendency to the English. Rouba also has intimated to me that he has heard of such engagements having lately taken place, and that it is expected here that the Nizam will join us, in which case the Mahrattas would remain neuter till an opening offered for taking such part as might appear best suited to their interest

Though I feel it my duty to submit these circumstances to you, I must confess, Honorable Sir, that the impression made on my mind is that we have not at present anything serious to apprehend therefrom. As to the French, reflecting on the state of their resources and naval force in Europe, the domestic state of the French Island and their predicament with respect to the mother country, it appears to me that if the French can make any great naval exertion, it will be nearer home than the East Indies where, and at the Cape of Good Hope, our government and naval and land force are so truly respectable, or, if so distant, precarious and rash an attempt be made, that its discomfiture will be an inseparable consequence. As to Tippoo he has, I think, been too much weakened by the last war and is too well acquainted with our strength to involve himself hastily in

hostilities with us in the hope of the precarious support of the French who, he knows from experience, could not afford him any effectual assistance, even when we were so much pressed during the former war by the French, Spaniards, Dutch, Americans and Marrattas, while, if he really is bent upon aggrandizement or at least upon the attempt thereto, the distracted state of the empires of the Marrattas and the Nizam must afford him prospects of success infinitely more flattering than the very formidable and respectable state of the British power in India.

It is not, however, unlikely that Mr. Raymond or some other intriguers of the Court of Hyderabad may have propagated stories of a connexion between the French and Tippoo hostile to the English, nor even that some French emissary may have some communication with Tippoo; but I humbly presume that such intrigues are but little formidable to us, though it would be rash and improper to treat them with total neglect.

On the 16th Ragojee Bhonsla gave an entertainment to Kasi Row, the eldest son of Tukojee Holkar and is to take leave of the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees this day.

It is expected that Dowlut Row Sindia will canton in this neighbourhood during the rains. Bannajee Huzra, brother of the late Kishna, is now his Prime Minister. Tuckojee Holkar's infirmities have for some months past confined him to his tent. Soobrow took leave of Dowlut Row Sindia on the 15th instant, but is still here.

No. 16—Uththoff requests the Governor and Council of Bombay to accord their approval to the appointment by the Peshwa of Ramchandra Sinoy in the place of Ranchhod Sinoy, who had worked there for a long time as the Peshwa's agent and news-writer.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF, ASSISTANT RESIDENT AT POONA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

Poona, 26th June 1797.

About six weeks ago, it was intimated to me from the Darbar that the Peshwa had been pleased to appoint as his news-writer at Bombay, Ramchandra Sinovee in the room of Ranchore Sinovee, his present agent there; and I was requested to give him a letter of introduction to you. The character and conduct of Ramchandra are too well known at Bombay and here to render it necessary to enter, in this place, into an explanation of my reasons for wishing to get revoked the appointment of such a person to such a situation. I began by observing that I understood Ramchandra was a native and subject of Bombay, and submitting to the Peshwa, whether

such a relation to our Government were compatible with that in which he proposed placing Ramchandra as his agent at Bombay; yet he could not be considered as a subject of ours, for that he had not any house there, that he has quitted the place about twelve years ago, and that he possessed landed property in the Maratha country near Mhar. That the Peshwa's present news-writer at Bombay (Ranchore Sinovee) was a native of Bombay, and that Ramchandra's father had formerly been the Peshwa's agent at Bombay; but that even admitting Ramchandra to be a subject of Bombay, it did not appear that, in the cordial intercourse between the two states, there was any obstacle to his appointment as the Peshwa's agent there. In the course of this discussion, it was intimated to me that Kassinath Pundit would proceed to Bombay as the Agent of Ramchandra, I at length signified to Moro Pandit for the notice of Bajirao and Nana Furnavees that from my regard for this state, I felt it incumbent on me to submit to him, as he might perhaps be unacquainted therewith, that it had reached me from Bombay, and was confirmed by what had fallen under my own observation here, that the general character and conduct of Ramchandra were of a nature very incompatible with the respectability of the situation of the Agent at Bombay of so great a personage as the Peshwa, and that there was reason to apprehend that the Peshwa's affairs at Bombay might be subjected to much evil under such management. The answer from Moro Pandit was that the appointment having actually taken place, it could not at present be revoked. That Kassinath Pundit was a man of respectability and that a few months' experience would evince the eligibility of continuing the appointment or revoking it. I enquired whether this was to be considered as comprising the sentiments of both Bajirao and Nana, since it appeared by no means improbable, that there might be a difference of opinion between them, and that Moro Pandit, who is a creature of Nana's sentiments and not those of the Durbar, [was speaking] without consulting Bajirao. I was in reply assured that both Bajirao and Nana concurred therein. I observed that in what I had submitted to him (Moro Pandit) on the occasion I had been actuated solely by goodwill towards this state, for that it was not a matter of any consequence to us who might be the Peshwa's agent at Bombay, that as notwithstanding what I had represented, it was still the pleasure of the Peshwa that Ramchandra should have the new appointment of his news-writer at Bombay, and that the duties thereof on the spot should for the present be conducted by Kasinath Pandit, I readily acquiesced in the Peshwa's wish of a letter to your address agreeably thereto, which I accordingly delivered to him, as per enclosed copy.

I understand that the cause of the removal of Ranchore Sinovee, was that he was an adherent of Behroo Pandit, and that his conduct during Pursaram Bhou's administration was very unsatisfactory to Nana Furnavees.

No. 17—Uthhoff recommends to the notice of the Governor General the request of Baburao Angria for British support in his claim for the possession of the principality of Kolaba. Baburao was supported by Daulatrao Sindia, as he was the son of Daulatrao's maternal uncle : the rightful claimant was Manaji Angria, son of the late Raghuji. This dispute between the two claimants for the possession of Kolaba continued to disturb Maratha-British relations for a long time.

FROM—MR. JOSHUA UTHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 15th July 1797.

On the 14th instant I received a letter from Baburao Angria, who is related to and supported by Daulatrao Sindia, that sannads had been granted to him by the Peshwa for the fort and district of Culaba opposite to Bombay ; that he understood that Jaising Angria, who was at present in the management of affairs there, received supplies of money and grain from Bombay, for the discontinuance of which he requested orders might be issued from our Government. On which point he would, if requisite, procure a letter from Daulatrao Sindia to Sir Charles Malet's address. He added that a good understanding subsisted between himself and the infant legitimate son of the late Ragojec Angria, who is now at Culaba, and in whose name affairs are conducted by Jaising who is, I understand, a natural son by a slave woman. I replied that I knew not of any supplies of money or grain being sent from Bombay to Culaba. That he might be assured that the conduct of our Government would be on all occasions agreeable to engagements and friendship ; and that so far from our showing any particular countenance to Jaising Angria, that we had great reason to be much dissatisfied with his conduct towards us. That I had trusted, on his (Baburao's) assuming the management of affairs at Culaba, that he would act towards us agreeably to engagements and friendship.

No. 18—Uthhoff recommends that several persons disaffected with the Peshwa may be given a fitting reception and British protection at Benares, if they desire to repair to that holy resort.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,
TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE.

Poona, 29th July 1797.

I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Bombay Government.

On the 26th instant I received a message from Moro Pandit that he was to proceed the ensuing day to Ahmednuggur on a deputation from Nana to Moroba Furnavees.

I have lately received a message from Buchajee Pundit who accompanied our grand army as the Marratta vakeel during the last war against Tippoo Sultaun, earnestly requesting my good offices in his behalf ere I quit this Residency and Sir Charles Malet proceeds to Europe. He has been in confinement in Poona ever since the revolution in October last, and being the brother of Behroo Pundit, who bore so conspicuous a part in the administration of Pursaram Bhow, it is not likely that he will be enlarged and entertained by the people at present in power here, though it is universally acknowledged that he was not actively employed at the period in question, nor guilty of any exceptionable acts. I have assured him of my goodwill, that the general tenor of his conduct had made a favourable impression on us, and that neither our Government nor the new Resident would be unmindful of him though Sir Charles Malet might proceed to Europe, and I might quit this Residency. I have enquired in what manner I could assist him, whether he was desirous of retiring to Benares, and in that case, if he had wherewithal to support himself there.

Permit me to submit to you, Hon'ble Sir, whether or not it might be advisable to afford an asylum at Benares, with the assent of the head of the Marratta Empire, to persons in the predicament of Moroba Furnavees, Pursaram Bhow, Balloo Tantea, Behroo Pundit, Buchajee Pundit, Bhasker Pundit, &c., such a retreat would probably be highly desirable to all or most of them, would conciliate them and their relations towards our Government, and make a favourable impression on the inhabitants of India in general, and the Hindoos in particular. •

On the 28th Abba Selokar gave an entertainment at his house in town to Dowlut Row Sindia. He is one of Nana's principal confidants and has the chief management of affairs between Dowlut Row and Nana, on the part of the latter.

I am informed that in the afternoon of the 28th preparations were made by Tippoo's vakeels here for waiting on the Peshwa and that at 9 p m a message was sent to them that the meeting must be deferred. I must confess that it appeared to me not likely that they would have an audience of the Peshwa during the existing Hindoo festival of Dusschera, but in consequence of reports that their introduction to the Peshwa was in agitation, I desired Meer Fukker-ud-Deen, the Munshy of this Residency, to intimate as from himself, to Madajee Pundit, the agent between the Durbar and this Residency during Moro Pundit's absence, that my interview with Bajee Row and Nana for the purpose of delivering the Governor General's letters of congratulation on the accession of the former to the Peshwaship had been deferred solely on account of Nana's indisposition, and that were Tippoo's vakeels to be admitted to an audience

before I had delivered the letters in question, it would have an awkward appearance.

Ragojee Bhonsla had, by the last accounts, reached the Gunga Godaver on his way to Naugpore.

Dowlut Row Sindea's guards continue posted at the Peshwa's palace in town.

No. 19—In this interesting letter Uthhoff recounts several affairs, including his delivery of the Governor General's letters to the Peshwa, and the private consultations held by Bajirao with Nana Fadnis and Sindia.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE.

Poona, 13th August 1797.

Intelligence reached me on the 9th instant that it was in agitation to introduce Tippoo's vakeels to the Peshwa on that day ; in consequence of which I immediately by note reminded Moro Pundit of the letters in my possession from you, Hon'ble Sir, for the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees. At 5 p.m. just as I had sat down to dinner at the usual time a note was delivered to me from Moro Pundit desiring me to proceed instantly to the Peshwa's palace for the delivery of the letters in question. So sudden and abrupt summons at so unusual a time for the delivery of letters, one of which had been lying by me for six weeks, and the other several days, was contrary to the respectful etiquette that had ever subsisted between the Durbar and this Residency, and in other points of view exceptionable. Though to show a prompt disposition to comply with the wishes of the Court I ordered the usual retinue of the Residency to prepare to accompany me, I determined not to submit to so irregular and abrupt a summons on such an occasion, in which I felt supported by the precedent of Sir Charles Malet, on whom also the Durbar had thus occasionally attempted to encroach, though in less glaring instances, and by your approval of my conduct on an occasion somewhat similar, as contained in the 3rd paragraph of your letter to me of the 31st October 1796.

I in consequence immediately wrote a note to Moro Pundit to the following purport.

“ For six weeks past you have been acquainted with my having letters to deliver for the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees from the Governor General. I now very unexpectedly receive a note from you desiring me to repair instantly to the Peshwa's palace for the delivery of the letters in question, which reached me at 5 p.m. when I had just sat down to dinner at the usual time. Though very desirous both from duty and inclination to gratify the

wishes of this Court on all occasions, I really am not prepared at such a time of day to comply with so sudden and unusual a summons. The rain now falling heavily, the distance between my place of residence and the palace being from the unfordable state of the river, very great, and many of my palankeen bearers and other usual attendants being out of the way from ignorance of my having occasion to move from home, I therefore trust the Peshwa will acquiesce in my deferring to wait on him till tomorrow, or any other day that may be more convenient and agreeable to him."

On the 10th I reminded Moro Pundit by note that it was customary to give at least one day's previous notice of all meetings between the Court and this Residency, and that when letters from the Governor General were to be delivered to the Peshwa and Minister, it was usual for the Resident to proceed first to the house of the latter, for the delivery of the letters to his address, and afterwards to accompany him to the Peshwa's

You will have observed, Hon'ble Sir, that in deference to the delicacy of the times and the state of affairs between the Peshwa and Nana, I have forbore to urge with any importunity the delivery of your letters, though they have been long in my possession, and their presentment has been deferred by the Durbar on frivolous and false pretences. After such conciliation on our part their conduct on the present occasion is peculiarly displeasing, though it may not appear extraordinary to you, Hon'ble Sir, acquainted as you are with the absence of liberality or candour, and with the existence of an encroaching spirit in this Court, who, while scrupulously tenacious in requiring the observance of punctilious etiquette towards themselves, are prone in an equal degree to the violation thereof toward others. In any affair of importance both duty and inclination would, of course, induce me to waive all consideration toward these points, but the case in question seemed a fit one to check encroachment and incivility.

A review of Mr Perron's corps of infantry by the Peshwa and Dowlut Row Sindea has been for some time in agitation, but has been hitherto prevented by the inclemency of the weather.

On the 9th instant Dowlut Row Sindea sent a message to the Peshwa ostensibly in consequence of their not meeting at the review which had been fixed for that day, that he would wait on him in the afternoon, and accordingly arrived at the palace in town about 5 p.m. when Bajy Row summoned Nana to attend, who at first excused himself on the plea of indisposition, but at length waited on him, and it is said to have been proposed that Tippoo's vakeels and myself should attend on the same occasion. I have good intelligence that Tippoo's vakeels have been persuaded to expect an introduction to the Peshwa on several different occasions since their arrival here, for which they have made preparation, but which has been put off by the Durbar on various pretences, and I am assured that they were in a state of preparation to attend the Peshwa from 4 to 9 p.m. on the 9th instant.

On the 10th Moro Pundit intimated to me by messages that he believed the 12th would be appointed for my delivering the Governor General's letters, in which case an invitation would be sent to me on the 11th. I also learn through private channels that it is in agitation to introduce Tippoo's vakeels to the Peshwa on the 12th. I am at present strongly inclined to think, that one cause of the delay hitherto in the introduction of Tippoo's vakeels to the Peshwa has been the deference felt by this Court towards us not to admit Tippoo's vakeels before the delivery of your letters, though for the continuance of such becoming deference I cannot be responsible among people so little actuated by reason and right as leaders in this quarter.

It is proper that I should report to you, Hon'ble Sir, that it is very confidently rumoured here that one object of Tipoo's mission is to form a confederacy with the Mahrattas against us, or at least to secure their neutrality.

That Tippoo is inimically disposed towards us and it may be asked what state is not so, there is perhaps little or no doubt, but there appears to me a material distinction between the existence of such disposition and his daring, under present circumstances, to involve himself in hostilities with us.

In addition to the assurances officially made to me as mentioned in the 3rd paragraph of my address of the 22nd ultimo, that whatever occurs between this Court and Tippoo's vakeels shall be communicated to me, I have through private channels intimated to Emrut Row that such communication is incumbent as being agreeable to treaty, friendship and the practice of our Government.

I understand that Nana Furnavees has strongly expressed his dissatisfaction at Bajy Row's profusion in distributing five lakhs of rupees at the late festival of Dushhra yet leaving some charitable donations on that occasion still to be made, and in feeding near a thousand people daily at the palace in town, and that he (Nana) again talks of retiring.

Since writing the above early in the morning of the 12th instant, Mahdajee Pundit in person acquainted me that that afternoon was appointed for the delivery of your letters to the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees, with an apology for his having been prevented delivering this message the preceding evening, by the inclemency of the weather. I, of course, readily acquiesced.

On the afternoon of the 12th I proceeded agreeably to invitation, to the house of Nana Furnavees, and after the usual compliments I presented the letters from you, Hon'ble Sir, to his address on the subject of his reinstatement as Prime Minister with Bajy Raw, and the appointment of Col. Palmer to succeed Sir Charles Malet as the Company's representative at this Court; observing on the first point that it was peculiarly acceptable to us that he, through whom the most cordial connexion had

so long subsisted between the Company and the Mahrattas, should be again invested with the ministry of this State, which assurances seemed to afford him satisfaction. On the subject of Col. Palmer's appointment, he was pleased to use some complimentary expressions towards me with enquiries as to my remaining at Poona; observing that having been so many years at this Court with Sir Charles Malet I must necessarily be peculiarly well acquainted with the affairs between the two States and the mode of conducting business between the Durbar and this Residency. With acknowledgments for his politeness I replied that my remaining here was uncertain, nor was it of any consequence, for the principles of action of our Government were established on so just, solid and permanent a footing as not to be susceptible of any material influence from the personal qualities of the Company's representatives at this Court, though indeed as to Col. Palmer he was peculiarly well qualified for the situation from having been the Company's Minister for many years with Dowlut Row Sindea and his predecessor, and being consequently well acquainted with the affairs of the two States, besides which he had resided in India for thirty years, and enjoyed the advantage of your personal acquaintance and confidence. Nana acknowledged the equity and stability of the principles of action of our Government. I enquired whether he had any intelligence respecting Tippoo, to which he replied that he understood he had expressed his determination to maintain his right to the Kurnool Peshkush which, by the treaty of Syrungputtun, was not included in the share of either of the allies. After some general conversation Nana was summoned to the Peshwa's palace, whither he proceeded as usual, leaving me at his house with Moro Pundit who acquainted me that Tippoo's vakeels would have their first meeting with the Peshwa in the course of the day.

In about a quarter of an hour I received a message to proceed to the Peshwa's, and was introduced into one of the largest apartments of the palace, in which were a great number of the attendants of Dowlut Row Sindea who had arrived at the palace while I was at Nana's. Emrut Row and Nana shortly after entered at opposite sides of the apartment, and near half an hour elapsed before the arrival of Bajy Row who was accompanied by Chimna Appa and Dowlut Row. A great many other persons of consequence were present, among whom were Shumsheer Behadur (Ally Behadur's son) Mhadoo Row Furkia, Abba Selokur, Govin Pingleh, and most of Sindea's Ministers. After the usual compliments to Bajy Row, Chimna Appa and Dowlut Row, I delivered your two letters to Bajy Row, in the usual manner through Nana Furnavees, with an observation, that Sir Charles Malet had in person while here presented the usual Killat and verbal assurances of congratulation on the part of you, Hon'ble Sir, on his accession to the Peshwaship. I shortly after

took leave of all present in the usual manner. Captain Edward Moor accompanied me at these two visits.

In the course of the evening Tippoo's vakeels were introduced to the Peshwa who was attended by the same persons as at my meeting, of which I was officially advised the next morning by Moro Pundit, who added that they had presented to the Peshwa an elephant, Jeega, serpech and two pieces of cloth, besides which I hear, through other channels, that they presented a letter, a brace of pistols, and two firelocks. I am assured that nothing private passed on the occasion. It is reported that they will pay a visit to Nana Furnavees and afterwards to Dowlut Row Sindea.

The same evening a secret consultation was held at the palace at which were present the Peshwa and his two brothers, Nanna Furnavees and Dowlut Row Sindea, and some of their principal confidants, after which Nana left the palace, and a repast was provided for Dowlut Row Sindea who did not return to his camp till near midnight.

No. 20—Uththoff reports the death of Bahiro Pandit and the departure of Perron to the north. Negotiations between Nana and Daulatrao Sindia are also reported.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 26th August 1797.

Behroo Pundit, formerly the Mahratta Minister for our affairs at this Court, who made so conspicuous a figure last year during the Government of Chimna Appa and Pursaram Bhow, died in confinement at the hill fort of Rayghur, on the 20th instant.

On the 22nd instant Mr. Perron, Mr. De Boigne's successor, had his audience of leave of Dowlut Row Sindia, preparatory to his proceeding to Hindostan, to arrange the affairs of the corps in that part of India, and of the Jaghir in the Doab which is assigned for its support. He is to be accompanied by Captain Brownrigg. The command of the brigade here devolves on Mr. Dugeon, a Frenchman.

There are of late some appearances of a closer connection than hitherto between Nana and Dowlut Row Sindia through Abba Seloker, though it does not seem likely that a cordial good understanding should ever be established between them. Nana may be desirous of the withdrawal of Dowlut Row to Hindostan, and be willing to pay for it. There is, indeed, a rumour that it is in agitation to depose Bajy Row, or at least, to deprive him of all influence in the management of affairs, and some discussions on this subject are said to have passed at a meeting which took place between Emrut Row and Nana Furnavees on the 23rd instant at a celebrated pagoda in this neighbourhood.

I am informed that the amount to be paid to Dowlut Row Sindia by the engagements which effected the restoration of Bajy Row to the Peshwaship, was two crores of rupees, that an assignment has been given on Nizam Ally Khan for fifty lacks of rupees on that account, and on Govin Row Guykewar, for twenty-five lacks, that about sixteen or seventeen lakhs have been paid by Nizam Ally Khaun, but none yet by Govin Row, and that Nana Furnavees has paid the balance of a crore and a quarter with the addition of twenty lacks for Dowlut Row's acquiescence in the late measures respecting Moroba Furnavees, though I must confess that I have doubts of Nana having yet actually paid to Dowlut Row so very large a sum.

Nana Furnavees has not yet paid a visit of condolence either to Kasi Row or Malhar Row, on the death of their father Tukojee Holkar (on 15th August 1797).

Mr. Perron has commenced his march toward Hindostan. It may not be amiss to intimate to you, Honourable Sir, that an occasional civil intercourse, by letter and message, has subsisted between Mr. Perron and myself in the course of which he proposed paying me a visit, which I waived, and on his lately expressing a wish to visit Bombay, I dissuaded him therefrom, on the grounds of the misunderstanding that unhappily subsisted between Great Britain and France, on which he readily relinquished his intention. Mr. Du Pratt, one of his officers who was, I understand, formerly first or second in command at the French Settlement of Mahe on the Malabar Coast, has lately applied for my assistance in getting his son conveyed hither from Pondicherry which I have for the present waived, on the grounds of the unfavourableness of the season, and on which point I have to request to be furnished with the sentiments of you, Honourable Sir, or the Governor of Fort St. George to whom I shall forward a copy of this paragraph I understand that both Messrs Perron and Du Pratt are French Democrats, but the former appears to possess good sense and moderation.

No. 21—In this letter Uthtoff writes of a meeting between Nana Fadnis and Amritrao in which the former urged upon the latter the necessity of remonstrating with Bajirao against his levity

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 29th August 1797

I have the honour to report to you that the following has been mentioned to me, through private channel, as the purport of the conference which took place between Emrut Row and Nana Furnavees on the 23rd inst. as mentioned in my address of the 26th.

That Nana Furnavees after exhortation on the inviolableness of the engagements that formerly passed between them, had remonstrated on the irregularity and levity of the conduct of Bajee Row who attended neither to the affairs of the state, nor to his own household concerns, but dissipated his time and property among dancers, singers and menial servants, from which courses he urged Emrut Row to endeavour to reclaim his brother.

That another topic of conversation introduced by Nana Furnavees was Tippoo's mission to this Court, which had for its object the co-operation of the Mahrattas with Tippoo against the English, or at least, to secure their neutrality.

That on the first point, Emrut Row had acknowledged that there were some grounds for Nana's complaint, that he had already used some endeavours to correct Bajy Row's conduct in which he would persevere, though with little or no hopes of effecting a thorough reform.

That on the second point, Nana had admitted that engagements subsisted between the Mahrattahs, the English and Nizam to co-operate in the event of Tippoo committing aggression against either but with an observation that it was incumbent on all states to pursue their own advantage, that Emrut Row had professed his incompetence to form an immediate opinion on this point, and that he would consult Bajy Row thereon.

I cannot by any means pretend to vouch for the authenticity of the above intelligence, nor am I without suspicion of insidiousness in the communication thereof to me. Many reflections occur on the subject, which I shall defer submitting to you, having reason to expect some further intelligence, through another channel, respecting the meeting in question between Emrut Row and Nana, confining myself for the present to an observation that from the view I have hitherto taken of the matter, it does not appear to me to involve consequences prejudicial to us.

An occasional civil intercourse by message has for some time past subsisted between this Residency and both Kasi Row and Malhar Row, the two eldest sons of the late Tukojee Holkar, but from the schism between them, and the Peshwa, Nana Furnavees and Dowlut Row Sindia, having each adopted a different mode of conduct toward the brothers since their father's death, I have deemed it advisable to waive paying a visit of condolence to either.

About noon on the 28th instant it was intimated to me by Mahdajee Pundit, one of the Government Karkuns who transacts business between the Durbar and the Residency, that if agreeable to me, Bajy Row would invite me to be present at a review of Dowlut Row Sindia's regular infantry in the afternoon. With acknowledgements for his civility, I waived attending on the ground of prior engagement. Bajy Row, Emrut Row, Chimna Appa and Nana Furnavees were present on this occasion.

Tippoo's vakeels, I am told, were there also, but had not any conversation with the above personages.

No. 22—Uthoff writes of several important topics in agitation at the court of the Peshwa and concludes that none of them appeared to be prejudicial to the British interests.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., G. G.

Poona, 2nd September 1797.

During the late annual ceremonies in honour of the idol Gunnes, Nana Furnavees has twice attended the Peshwa at the palace, on one of which occasions D. R. S. also was present. On the 31st ultimo, I, as usual, visited by invitation both the Peshwa and Baba Furkia.

At my meeting with Baba Furkia I availed myself of an opening, which he afforded by enquiring after the affairs of Europe, to endeavour to impress him with an idea of the danger to which persons and property in general and particularly princes, priests and nobles, were exposed in all states where the modern French could introduce themselves; which suggested itself to me, with a view of contributing to counteract the intrigues that are rumoured to have been set on foot here by Tippoo's vakeels, whose affairs are conducted through the Furkia family. It did not appear to me advisable to allude more pointedly to Tippoo, since it seemed not likely to draw any valuable information from Baba Furkia and might have been construed into extraordinary sensibility and solicitude on our part on the point in question.

Baji Row was attended by his two brothers and Vinaik Rau's son, but not Nana Furnavees. A respectable company were present, among whom were Neelkunt Row Purbhoo, Moro Pundit, and Wittul Pundit, the latter of whom is a dependant of Banajee Hurza and is constantly employed as an agent between the Peshwa and Sindean Durbar. He was seated close to Moro Pundit, evidently for the purpose of collecting whatever might pass between the Peshwa or Emrut Rou and me at this meeting, which was however confined to compliments, friendly professions and general conversation on indifferent subjects, in the course of which I reminded Moro Pundit of the promise of the Durbar agreeably to engagement, friendship and custom to communicate unreservedly to me whatever might pass between this Court and Tippoo's vakeels. He repeated what he had said in answer to my former enquiries, that the letters they had brought from Tippoo were merely congratulatory on Baajy Row's accession to the Peshwaship, and the arrangements appertaining thereto, and that the vakeels had not agitated the subject of Kurnool, nor any other: The guards of Dowlut Row Sindea continue at the Peshwa's palace.

That at the meeting between Emrut Rou and Nana Furnavees on the 23rd ultimo, mentioned in my last address, some discussion took place respecting some propositions from Tippoo to this Court of a nature inimical to the Company, has been corroborated through another channel, which I feel it my duty to report to you, Honourable Sir, though I have considerable doubts of the authenticity of the intelligence, and am not without suspicion of insidiousness in the communication thereof; and I beg leave to submit to you how far the following circumstances may be considered as affording a prospect that the rumoured intrigues in question are not likely to prove prejudicial to us. The ostensible object of Tippoo's mission to this Court is itself evident, and whether or not it has any other object, the reports in question may be expected in the common course of things, and may even be encouraged by some or all of the leaders here for the purpose of giving themselves weight, alarming us and rendering us subservient to their views. Tippoo has since the peace of Seringapatam been called upon formally for an explanation of his military preparations, a less equivocal mark of hostile designs than the rumours now propagated to his prejudice, which he answered a twelve months ago on grounds yet unrefuted, for though he has not to the present period executed his avowed designs on Kurnool, he has not relinquished them; and may have very cogent reasons for suspending the prosecution thereof, while many circumstances corroborate his being now actually engaged in resuming with increased exertion and effect his designs in that quarter, which may, perhaps, be considered a more reasonable solution of his present military preparations, than inimical intentions toward us, with or without the co-operation of the French, Mahrattas, Zemaun Shah or the Nizam. If Tippoo were so bent, as is rumoured in some parts of India, on attempts at aggrandizement the disturbances in Malabar (now to appearance happily settled) and the late distractions in the Governments of Hyderabad and Poona seem to have presented prospects more flattering to him than the present. But even admitting that Tippoo is engaged in endeavouring to obtain the co-operation or neutrality of the Mahrattas in a projected war against us, it does not follow that he is likely to be successful. Our security is founded on the broad and honourable basis of having acted toward all the Powers of India agreeably to treaty and amity, without being constrained thereto by weakness, of which the respectable state of our Government and military force afford a convincing proof. The Mahrattas must be pretty well satisfied that while they adhere to good faith with us, they have little or nothing to apprehend from our power, while in Tippoo they have not any confidence, nor does he under present circumstances, appear to possess the means of overawing, cajoling or conciliating them into his views, and the intestine distractions that still exist among them, afford further arguments against their uniting and co-operating with Tippoo against us, though, indeed it must be allowed to be possible, however improbable,

that Nana Furnavees from his experience of the insuperable obstacles, founded in domestic causes to the re-establishment of his influence in the empire, may try the experiment of effecting it by diverting the attention of Bajy Rou and Doulut Rou from the domestic concerns of the state to foreign enterprizes, but even this would, according to Nana's politics, be likely to be confined rather to negotiation than be carried to the extremity of actual hostility, and his grand object would probably be the dismissal of Doulut Rou. There is indeed reason to think that Nana harbours some ill-will towards us (however unreasonably) for not affording more effectual support to his cause during the distractions in the Mahratta Empire subsequent to the death of the late Peshwa Mahdoo Rou in October 1795.

It is a generally received opinion in this quarter that Bajy Row's conduct does not afford grounds for such a remonstrance as is attributed to Nana at his meeting with Emrut Rou on the 23rd ultimo, but *these kinds of levities* in such personages when they do exist, are generally exaggerated by report, as they are probably in the present case; and, at all events, they cannot be considered as the principal source of the confusions in the state, being rather passive than active evils in so young and inexperienced a man as Bajy Rou during the short time he has held the Peshwaship, while the jarring interests of Nana and Doulut Rou Sindia, the former supported by talents, influence, wealth and experience, and the latter by influence and military power, appear to be by far the most active and energetic engines in convulsing the state.

On the 31st ultimo Nana Furnavees and Doulut Row Sindia met by accident, as it would appear, at the habitation in this neighbourhood, of a Bramin of great sanctity (denominated as hereditary living deity), but I learn that no private conversation passed between them on this occasion.

No. 23—The growing ill feeling between Kashirao and Malharrao Holkar is reported to the G. G. by Uthtoff

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., G. G. , FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 12th September 1797.

During the night of the 9th instant, Doulut Rou Sindia issued orders for his troops to be under arms, and to prepare for marching, which were immediately obeyed but subsequently countermanded. These preparations are said to have been for the purpose of seizing Malhar Rou Holkar at the suggestion of his elder brother Kasi Row, though there were not any preparations in the camps of either of the brothers, so material as to be discernible, during the night at the place of my residence, which, and a river at present unfordable, occupy the whole space between the two camps

Just after I had retired to rest on the subsequent night, a person called on me with a message from Malhar Row that he understood there were preparations in the camps of his brother and Doulut Row Sindea as well as in town originating, as he had heard, in the seizure of Parsuram Punt Pratinidee by Nanna Furnavees, respecting which he requested a communication of such intelligence as might have reached me, adding a hope which evinced his apprehensions of assistance from me, should it become requisite to him in consequence of the misunderstanding between him and his brother. I replied that I had not heard of preparations then in Doulut Row Sindea's camp, though I had the preceding night, the object of which I know not, that I had the happiness to be on good terms with all parties, which and my situation precluded my taking any part, even had I the means, which I had not. During the whole of the night vigilance was conspicuous in Malhar Rou's camp, but I do not learn that there were material preparations in any other quarter, though in the course of the afternoon Ballajee Pundit, a person of consequence belonging to the Pratinidee, one of the great hereditary officers of state, during the government of the Mahratta Rajas, was seized in town.

The seizure of Malhar Rou is very confidently said to be in agitation at the instance of his brother Kāsi Rou who is supported by Doulut Rou Sindea, while the cause of Malhar Rou is supposed to be espoused by Nana Furnavees and some of the females of Doulut Rou's family.

On the 11th an enquiry was made, through the Munshy of this Residency, by one of Malhar Rou's adherents and the person who transacts business between Malhar Row and Nana on the part of the latter, whether the Company's mediation would be granted to effect a reconciliation between the brothers, with an intimation that both Nana and Doulut Rou were desirous thereof, but that obstacles were introduced by the intermediate agents both of the Sindean and Holkar Durbars. I suggested, in the first instance, the advisableness of collecting and furnishing me with the sentiments thereon of Bajy Rou, Nana, Doulut Rou and Kasse Rou. You may be assured, Honourable Sir, that I shall avoid involving you in any responsibility or embarrassment in this affair; though indeed it seems probable that no further progress may be made therein, for it is to be expected that neither Bajy Rou, nor Nana Furnavees, nor Doulut Rou would readily waive their authority in this case in favour of the Company's mediation, particularly as the dissensions between the brothers afford a flattering prospect of pecuniary advantage to those three personages.

On the 11th instant, the Munshy of this Residency paid a visit by appointment to Emrut Rou who enquired as to the state of our affairs in Europe, and at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and expressed a wish to have a list of the Europe curiosities procurable at Bombay, in consequence of an offer I had made to the three brothers at my visit of the 31st ultimo,

to execute any commissions they might have in that quarter. In the course of conversation Emrut Rou was very lavish of his professions of attachment to our nation, with assurances that he should be happy on every occasion to evince it, and that he would not fail to continue to advise me of the state of affairs in this quarter, in which nothing material had of late occurred, but that at a visit which Doulut Rou was to pay to the Peshwa in the afternoon, it was expected that some settlement of the affairs of the Holkar family would take place, as also some arrangements for the conduct of the affairs of this state, through the instrumentality of Chimna Appa, Nana Furnavees, and himself (Emrut Rou). In answer to some points which I had desired the Munshy to submit to him, he observed that he would consult Nana Furnavees respecting answers to your late letters, and copies of Tippoo's to this Court, and the settlement of the affairs of the Sinovec mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of my address dated 5th instant, that the only object to his knowledge of Tippoo's mission to this Court was the presentation of letters and Keellats of congratulations on the accession of Bajy Rou to the Peshwaship.

I have established some intercourse with a Bramin Karkoon attached to Tippoo's who is called Narroo Pundit or Narain Appa who, I conceive, to be the person mentioned in Kausim Ally Khan's letter, enclosed in the letter from the Assistant at Hyderabad dated 20th ultimo. He has proposed visiting me, which I have discouraged on the principle that it might involve him in trouble as being exceptionable to some of the chiefs in this quarter, but with an intimation that it would otherwise afford me satisfaction to have a meeting not only with him, but with the Vakeels also, as a perfect good understanding subsisted between their Government and mine. He tells me that he came from Seringapatam in company with the Vakeels (which differs somewhat from Kausim Ally Khan's account), that at that period tranquillity prevailed throughout Tippoo's country, but that troops were collecting at Gooty for enforcing Tippoo's claims on the Nawaub of Kurnool, who was said to be supported in his resistance by the Nizam. He pretends that the only objects of Tippoo's mission to this Court, are the congratulation of Bajy Rou on his accession to the Peshwaship, and the collection of intelligence of the state of affairs in this quarter.

On the 11th instant Doulut Rou Sindea proceeded to the Peshwa's palace, and had a private interview, attended by his principal ministers, with Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou at which Nana Furnavees was not present. Tippoo's vakeels have of late visited Baba Furkia twice

A few days ago a person fired a bullet from the house of Dada Gujra which wounded a horse at the palace within sight of Bajy Rou. The affair has made some noise here and rumours unfavourable both to Dada Gujra and his patron Nana have been in circulation, but I am inclined to think it was mere accident.

- No. 24—Uthhoff reports to the G. G. an attack on Malharrao Holkar's camp by the troops of Daulatrao Sindia and the death of Malharrao and several others in the fighting that ensued.

FROM—THE ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 14th September 1797.

Hon'ble Sir,

About sunrise this morning, a large detachment of Dowlut Rao Sindia's cavalry made an attack on the camp of Malharrao, second son of the late Tukoji Holkar. Scarcely any resistance was attempted. Of Malhar Rao's adherents, some are killed, some wounded, and the rest dispersed, the camp has been completely plundered of everything, except what the fugitives contrived to carry away with them. A little before 7, Colonel Felose arrived on the spot with his corps of infantry, and other parties of horse and foot took post in the environs.

Aware of the probability of an attack on Malhar Rao's camp, as you will have perceived, Honourable Sir, from my last address, I had desired Ganpat Rao, Colonel Palmer's agent with Dowlut Rao, to endeavour to ascertain the period of the projected attack and to give me the earliest advice thereof, representing at the same time to Daulat Rao or his ministers that, as Malhar Rao's camp was close to the place of my residence, it was requested the troops destined for the attack might be instructed to avoid entering on our premises, or molesting any of the people belonging to this residency. I had given similar instructions also to Bowanny Pursaud, the Agent of the Resident at Lucknow in the camp of Kassi Rao Holkar, but Kassi Rao did not make any movement against his brother. At half past eight, I received a note from Ganpat Rao informing me that orders had been issued the preceding evening for a body of troops to prepare in the usual manner to attend Daulat Rao on a hunting excursion, and that it was not until some time after they had left camp that he (Ganpat Rao) learnt their real destination to be an attack on Malhar Rao, on which he had agreeably to my desire immediately applied to Bhou Buckshy, who gave him a note (which he enclosed to me) addressed to Narayanrao Bukshy, the leader of the attack, to avoid any molestation to this Residency. We have not experienced any inconvenience on the occasion, except in one of our servants being plundered and badly wounded in coming from town by the wanton licentiousness of one of Sindia's horsemen. Some of the wounded and other followers of Malhar Rao have sought temporary refuge at this Residency, on principles of humanity; which has not yet been, and probably will not be objected to by any one.

P. S.—Malhar Rao Holkar is among the slain.

No. 25—The details of Sindia's attack on Malhar Rao's camp are reported in this letter by the Resident

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART, G C

Poona, 16th September 1797.

You have been frequently and fully advised of the serious dissensions between Kassi Rou and Malhar Rou, the only two legitimate sons of the late Tukojee Holkar. Though the former is the elder brother, and was invested with the succession to the chiefship by his father with at least the tacit assent of Baajy Rou, Nana Furnavees, and Doulut Rou Sindea, yet Malhar Rou would not submit to conduct himself as was becoming his situation as second of the Holkar chiefship, but encamped at a distance from his brother, kept up a distinct establishment, raised many followers, and plundered and took possession of many of the hereditary districts of the Holkar family in which he is said to have been supported, though not avowedly, nor openly, by Nana Furnavees. Still, however, it would appear that these evils were not irremediable by negotiation and at all events it was ill becoming of Doulut Rou Sindea to proceed to the violent extremity against Malhar Rou mentioneed in my last address of the 14th instant, which is confidently said to have been done without the assent of either the Peshwa or Nana Furnavees, who appear to be a good deal alarmed and offended on the occasion. It is, indeed, notorious that Doulut Rou Sindea was purchased by Kassi Rou's party to proceed to extremities against Malhar Rou, and though both Doulut Rou and Kassi Rou pretend much affliction at the death of Malhar Rou, their intention having been, as they profess, only to secure his person, and keep him under restraint till some settlement could be effected, yet it is evident that the measures taken on the occasion were by no means calculated for such a purpose. In Malhar Rou's camp for two or three nights previous to the fatal catastrophe vigilance was observed and piquets were posted in the direction of Sindea's expected attack, but in consequence of the assurances of Bajy Rou and Nana that no such attempt would be made, the receipt of intelligence that Doulut Rou was gone on a hunting excursion, and the approach of daylight, the piquets had returned to camp and Malhar Rou and his followers had retired to rest. Doulut Rou had in the interim proceeded in the direction of his usual hunting ground, which during the unfordable state of the river, was the shortest route to Malhar Rou's encampment, when within about two miles of which, he detached a large body of cavalry, who proceeding rapidly towards Malhar Rou's camp, may be said to have taken it by surprize, rushing in sword in hand toward the tent of Malhar Rou, who had but just time to mount his horse. A few of his followers, who collected near him, were almost instantly surrounded, and either killed or wounded, some shots fired by each party,

and three rockets by Malhar Rou's people. Almost the whole of the latter fled as soon as the first alarm was given, about fifteen of Malhar Rou's people were killed, and about twenty wounded; and of Doulut Rou's two or three were killed, and about forty wounded. The affair is very generally execrated at present in this quarter, but how lasting the impression may be or what may be its consequences, I cannot pretend to say; though there seems reason to conclude that its effect on Baajy Rou and Nana Furnavees will be considerable.

Kassi Rou's talents are said to be below mediocrity. Bappoo Holkar, his cousin, has long been a conspicuous character in the management of the affairs of the Holkar family and is said to have conducted the late negotiation with the Sindean Durbar. To the Ministry of Doulut Rou a considerable degree of odium attaches, as they as well as their master have doubtlessly been purchased to act against Malhar Rou. It is, however, conjectured that avarice has not been the sole principle of action with the Sindean party, but that jealousy also has had some share therein; for though Malhar Rou was neither a very great nor very good character, yet he possessed some military virtues which might possibly have proved prejudicial to the Sindean party; for however great an ascendancy the Sindean chiefship has of late years acquired over that of Holkar, the latter was formerly pre-eminent in the Mahratta Empire, which Tukojee (who died only last month) ever affected to retain, but the Holkar chiefship may now be considered as subservient to that of Sindea.

[- Eswant Rou and Ittojee, the only two illegitimate sons of the late Tukojee Holkar, had attached themselves to Malhar Rou, and were in his camp on the morning of the 14th instant, but nothing authentic has been heard of them since. It is generally thought that one of them has concealed himself in Poona, and that the other has proceeded to join Malhar Rou's adherents in some of the hereditary districts of the Holkar family. Malhar Rou's party encamped here with him consisted, I believe, of about fifteen hundred fighting men.

On the 14th instant in the afternoon I received a visit from a Bramin, on the part of Kassi Rou Holkar, who with acknowledgments for the attention that the wounded and other followers of Malhar Rou had experienced at this Residency, requested the continuance thereof, with permission to search for such persons and property of Malhar Rou's party as might be within our premises in which I acquiesced, urging the advisableness of the protection and favour of Kassi Rou being extended to the survivors of his late brother's party, to which the Bramin assured me, that Kassi Rou was predisposed. The persons who have sought refuge here, are allowed to depart at pleasure after ascertaining that the property they carry with them is their own. The father and brother of Malhar Rou's wife are still here, the latter very badly wounded, having been one of the few persons who stood upon their defence with Malhar Rou.

During the night preceding the attack, the river near Malhar Row's camp fortunately fell considerably which enabled many of his party to effect their escape, for from an idea that the river was unfordable, none of Sindea's troops were posted on the opposite bank till near an hour after the attack.

No. 26—Uthhoff reports the flight of Yashawant Rao Holkar from Poona after Malhar Rao's death

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART, G. G.,

Poona, 19th September 1797.

The following has been communicated to me by a Mahomedan, an adherent of the late Malhar Row Holkar That early in the affair of the 14th instant, he saw Eswunt Row, who had received two wounds and been dismounted; that taking him upon his horse, and covering him with a cloth, he proceeded to town, professing himself to be in the service of Sindea and to be carrying off one of his wounded companions, that concealing himself in the house of a Bramin in town attached to his party he proceeded next morning, in company with Eswant Row and three or four attendants, toward Barramutty about 60 miles to the S E., whence he returned hither, leaving Eswunt Row to prosecute his journey to Hyderabad Ittojee Holkar is said to be in the house of the late M. Norronho's son in Poona. The funeral obsequies of the late Malhar Row were performed by his brother Kassi Row on the same spot as their father Tukojee's on the 15th ultimo.

The person mentioned in the 9th paragraph of my address of the 12th instant, informs me that by intelligence just received from Syringputtun, he learns that the only preparations in Tippoo's country are for the purpose of enforcing his claims on Kurnoul The rumours that have been in circulation here of a connection between the Mahrattahs and Tippoo Sultan have of late subsided It is true that these points will bear the interpretation of having for their object to lull us into security, but thus much seems incontrovertible that the general and serious dissensions in this quarter preclude at present a connection between the Maharattahs and Tippoo to our prejudice

I understand that Colonel Catielho Filose (called also Michael) has been invested with the Kelladary of Delhi, where two of his battalions are to be stationed, though he himself will probably remain with Doulut Row.

An oblique advance has been made to me for the Company's mediation between Bajy Row and Nana; with an assurance of our goodwill to

compose differences among our friends in the Marhatta Empire, I have intimated the indispensableness, under present circumstances, of the acquiescence therein of Doulut Row Sindea.

No. 27—Uhthoff reports details of the distracted state of affairs at Poona particularly the growing tension between Nana and Sindia.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., G.C.

Poona, 23rd September 1797.

The affairs of this quarter appear to be in a still more distracted state than ever. The attack on Malhar Row Holkar is generally execrated, and seems at least to have shaken Bajy Row's confidence in Doulut Row Sindea. It has also irritated the Mankurrees against Doulut Row, and together with a dispute between the latter and Mallojee Raja, has united the Mankurrees and there is an appearance of their joining with Nana against the Sindean party. Bajy Row and Doulut Row have of late treated three of Nana's principal adherents Dada Gujra, Abba Selokar and Doondo Pundit, with some harshness, and threaten to mulct them heavily on the following grounds:—Dada Gujra from whose house the ball was fired into the Peshwa's palace, the Bramin who fired it, being confined in irons; Abba Selokar, Nana's agent in the severities lately shown toward Pursaram Punt Prittinidee, and his Dewan Ballajee Pundit, Doondo Pundit, the Kelladar of the hill fort of Loghur, in whose camp some of the Peshwa's property was discovered, which had been forcibly taken by a party of robbers on its way from the palace to a garden in this neighbourhood where the Peshwah was going to spend the day. The reinstatement of Balloo Tantia in the Sindean Ministry is rumoured to be in agitation; and Nana and his adherents are said to have made preparations for proceeding to Raygarh or Loghur, two strong hill forts in Nana's possession. Robberies and other excesses are daily committed in Poonah.

Ramchunder Sinowée who holds the office of Peshwa's Agent at Bombay, which he has hitherto conducted by deputy as mentioned in my letter to Sir Charles Malet of the 26th June last, was seized in Poona a few days ago, and is now confined in irons in Sindia's camp. I am not at present accurately informed of the particulars of this affair, but understand that it originates in some connection formed between Ramchunder and a Mr. Allimand, one of the Officers of Perron's Brigade, who it would appear was in quest, through Ramchunder's means, of some employment more eligible than his present service. Mr. Allimand also is in confinement. There are rumours that Mr. Allimand and Ramchunder had some plot

in agitation of a nature very inimical to Doulut Row, which derives some corroboration from the treatment toward them having been so severe and the intriguing character of Ramchunder who has been of late devoted to Nana.

I understand that a Vakeel from the Rajah of Tanjore named Govin Pundit arrived here a few days ago, and that he has had one interview with Nana

It is confidently said that the late engagements between the Sindian and Holkar Durbars stipulate a payment in ready money to the former of about six laks of rupees, together with the cession of one or two Purgunnahs and the cancelment of a bond for sixty (60) laks of rupees, which amount was advanced to the late Mahadjee Sindia some years ago by Ahalya Bye, the dowager hezd of the Holkar family, who has now been dead about two years. A deputation from Doulut Row is now in the camp of Kassi Row urging the performance of these stipulations which, it is said, Kassi Row is endeavouring to evade on the plea that the violence committed against Malhar Row was a material deviation from the engagements on the part of Doulut Row. Most of the plunder of Malhar Row's camp is in the camp of Doulut Row, who has not scrupled to seize from his own people some of the most valuable articles and to appropriate them to his own use.

It seems proper that I should report to you, Honourable Sir, that intelligence has reached me, said to come from a quarter of authority in the Sindian Durbar, that Nana and Azim-ul-Omrah have it in agitation to form a connexion with Tippoo Sultan inimical to us. I am not without suspicion that this communication may have been made to me, without any foundation, merely with a self-interested view of extorting a present or for the insidious purpose of irritating us against Nana and Azim-ul-Omrah who are supposed to be acting in earnest with Ragojee Bhonsla against the Sindian party. There seems reason to think that neither Nana nor Azim-ul-Omrah have sufficient confidence in Tippoo to connect themselves with him, unprovoked by us, while however favourably disposed toward him and unfavourably toward us they may be, the domestic affairs of the states of which they are the Prime Ministers seem, under present circumstances, to require the whole of their attention and resources.

I, this instant, learn that two messengers arrived here this morning from Syringputtan which they left twenty-one days ago, when they say Tippoo was in the fort, and that nothing material has of late occurred in that quarter.

No. 28—Daulatrao Sindia's letter to Sir Charles Malet and the latter's reply to Baburao Angria's project of obtaining possession of Kolaba, are given below.

FROM—DAULATRAO SINDIA,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, BART, etc., etc.

Received 25th September 1797.

As the troops of the noble and dignified Baburao Angria are approaching towards the fort of Culaba, and the command of them entrusted to Dhundjee Labahndu (Dada Gadre?) I am induced, in consideration of the affinity between me and the said Rao and in reliance of the absence of all distinction between us, to write these lines to my friend to admit of the purchase of such articles, powder and lead etc. as the above said Dhundjee Labahndu may have occasion for at Bombay, without impediment, and in conformity with the unity of our Sarkars, on application from Lutchman Rao Appa; and should any vessel belonging to the traitor Jaising Rao be sent from Culaba for the purchase of powder, lead or grain etc. to Bombay, it will be conformable to the sincere unanimity of our Sarkars to seize and detain such vessels together with the persons sent by the above mentioned traitor. On this head such compliance with the purport of this letter as may be accorded, will be proper and in its place, as much as it will contribute to the increase of satisfaction and greatly strengthen the basis of our friendship. What should I write more?

FROM—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, BART.

TO—MAHARAJA DAULATRAO SINDIA.

4th October 1797.

I have been favoured with your kind letter at an agreeable hour, and shall always feel the highest pleasure to contribute everything in my power to your satisfaction, both in forwarding your views, and preserving on a firm basis the friendship established between our Sarkars; in the meantime it being the object of this Government to avoid, as much as possible, all interference in or encouragement of the disputes of our neighbours, you may rest assured that commensurate with this established rule, Jaising Rao Angria shall not be permitted to supply himself with warlike stores from this port. What further?

No. 29—Uthhoff informs the G. G. of a probable attempt on the part of Baburao Angria to wrest the possession of Kolaba from Jaisingh Rao with the support of Daulatrao Sindia.

FROM—MR. JOSHUA UHTHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 26th September 1797.

Two days ago Dada Gujra paid a visit to Baburao Angria, in the camp of Daulat Rao Sindia. The latter is a relative of the Sindian family and his pretensions to the district of Colaba, opposite to Bombay, have been already submitted to you.

It is said that Dada Gujra is to be invested with the office of Dewan to Baburao, which corresponds but ill with the present state of affairs between their immediate patrons, Nana Furnavees and Daulat Rao Sindia.

It is expected that if Daulatrao is disengaged from more important pursuits, he will ere long send a force to put Baburao in possession of Colaba.

It is to be wished by us that Colaba were in the possession of some party more independent of Daulat Rao Sindia than Baburao Angria.

No. 30—Uthhoff reports the intention of Daulatrao Sindia to put his maternal uncle Baburao Angria in possession of Kolaba.

FROM—J UHTHOFF,
TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART, G. G.

Poona, 26th September 1797

A great clamour has been of late raised in Sindia's camp against Muzaffer Khan, one of Doulut Rou's principal cavalry officers, who commands about one thousand horse and whose party headed the attack on Malhar Rou Holkar's camp on the 14th instant. This clamour seems to originate partly in envy at the corps in question having shared so largely in the plunder of the camp, and partly with a view to throw the odium of the affair on that corps, without however any disposition having been shown

by Doulut Rou to redress any of the sufferers of Malhar Rou's party. The clamour has been fermented by a dispute within these few days between the corps in question and a corps belonging to Bannajee Huzra who is at present Doulut Rou's chief confidant.

I have been informed that within these few days a party of about forty men have arrived here from Seringapatan for the purpose of purchasing horses, with which view they have subsequently proceeded to the quarter of Tasgaon and Merridge on the banks of the Kistna. I do not learn that they have obtained specific permission from this Court to procure horses within the Marratta dominions; but during the distracted state of affairs in this empire, perhaps no prohibition will be issued against their supplies, or acquiescence therein may be purchased.

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No. 31—Uthhoff reports an interview of Meer Fakruddin with Amritrao and Nana who were anxious to secure the Resident's mediation in effecting a reconciliation between the various parties at the Poona Court.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,
TO—SIR JOHN SHORE.

Poona, 30th September 1797.

I have the honour to acquaint you, that by Emrut Row's desire Meer Fukkruddeen, the Munshy of this Residency, waited upon him on the 28th instant. At this meeting Emrut Row was very liberal in his acknowledgments of the conduct of the Company being uniformly just and honourable, with expressions of gratitude for the services that had been rendered to his family during the time of his adoptive father Ragoba, and assurances of the sincerity and warmth of his attachment to our nation. After which exordium he expressed his regret at the delay and vexation to which the Residency was exposed in the settlement of the points now in negotiation with the Durbar, some of which had been entrusted to his mediation, in the course of which he had experienced many obstacles from the corruption and ill will of certain parties at this Court, particularly Moro Pundit, which he trusted would not be construed by us to his (Emrut Row's) prejudice, for that I might be assured it would afford him much satisfaction to demonstrate on all occasions his gratitude and attachment to our nation. He observed that it could not have escaped my notice that affairs here continued in a very perturbed state, but that whenever anything materially

affecting them might come to his knowledge, he would not fail to give me regular advice thereof. That Tippoo's letters to this Court were merely congratulatory on Bajy Row's accession to the Peshwaship, but that he understood Tippoo had also represented to this Court that Doondo Punt Gokly, the Marhatta officer on the southern frontier, instigated certain disaffection and turbulent persons in that quarter to commit depredations in his (Tippoo's) dominions, to check which he had detached 5,000 men toward his northern frontier. This will be found to correspond with the communication made to me by the Durbar through Moro Pundit. Emrut Row assured me that he knew not of anything else having passed between the Durbar and Tippoo's Vakeels here, and that he understood the latter would receive their dismissal soon after the Hindoo festival of Dusra which occurs on the 30th instant. Emrut Row took occasion to enquire the state of our affairs on the Malabar Coast, observing that he had heard something of Tippoo's creating disturbances in that quarter at the instigation of the French. The Munshy reminded Emrut Row of my having some time ago announced to the Durbar the termination of the disturbances on the Malabar Coast by the Pychy Raja's having surrendered himself to Mr Duncan; and that as to the French, the only part of India in which they had made their appearance was on the coast of Guzerat, where two small vessels of their's were endeavouring to commit depredations upon our commerce.

While the Munshy was with Emrut Row, Babu Row Angria and Bannajee Huzra, two of Doulut Row Sindia's ministers, came in, and were overheard by the Munshy to assure Emrut Row that their master was disposed to act agreeably to Bajy Row's wishes, but that he was in great distress for money for the payment of his troops.

From the 7th paragraph of my address of the 19th instant, you will have been some what prepared, Honourable Sir, for the resumption of the subject of the Company's mediation to effect a reconciliation among the contending parties in this state. Gopaul Row Munshy who had some intercourse with this Residency in October and November last, having expressed a wish to have a meeting with Meer Fukkruddeen, it accordingly took place on the 28th instant, when Gopaul Row observed that Nana had instructed him to endeavour to ascertain through Fukkruddeen my sentiments as to the admissibility of the Company's mediation to effect a cordial reconciliation and good understanding between him and Bajy Row, without which the affairs of the state would not be conducted with the respectability and effect that would be satisfactory to him (Nana), and that, should such a settlement prove impracticable, it was his (Nana's) wish to avail himself of our good offices to accomplish his honourable retirement to Benares; it appeared to Meer Fukkruddeen from what he could collect from Gopaul Row who declined entering into details, that neither Bajy Row, Emrut Row, Doulut Row Sindia, nor Moro Pundit were at present pivy to this overture of Nana's.

On the 28th instant, Kundoo Row Kishen was invested by Kassi Row with the office of Dewan of the Holkar chiefship; though originally an adherent of the Holkar family, he has acquired his present dignity through the medium of the Sindian Durbar.

I understand that since the death of Malhar Row, Kassi Row has gained a considerable ascendancy in the hereditary districts of the Holkar family over his brother's adherents, most of whom are dispersed; and that Huurryba Holkar, one of the principal, has proceeded to Berar.

No. 32—In this important communication Uthhoff describes how the affairs of the Maratha state were heading towards a crisis and that no mediation or reconciliation was possible. He says that had Nana placed Bajirao in the Peshwaship immediately on the death of the late Peshwa, it would have been an eligible arrangement.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 3rd October 1797.

On the 29th ultimo, Abdalla Beg and Rezza Ally Beg, Tippoo's vakeels had their audience of leave of the Peshwa, who was attended by Chimna Appa and Emrut Row, but neither Nana Furnavees nor Doulut Row Sindia were present on this occasion. A surpeich, piece of kinkhaub, turband, and sella, and a piece of white cloth were presented to each of them. I do not learn that any time is yet fixed for their departure; previous to which it is expected that they will pay take-leave visits both to Nana and Doulut Row.

On the Dusra which occurred on the 30th, there was as usual a grand procession, to the distance of three or four miles from town, most of the great personages of this quarter being present, except Kassi Row Holkar who was prevented from attending by the unfordable state of the river, and Nana Furnavees, who paid his respects in person to the Peshwa on the skirts of the town on his return. The customary present of cloths on the Dusra, was sent to me in the usual manner by the Peshwa, Nana Furnavees and Moro Pundit.

It is said that Doulut Row Sindia had it in agitation to seize the person of Nana on this occasion, had a favourable opportunity offered; but I am not inclined to give implicit credit to this rumour, which seems to deserve to be classed with some others in circulation here; such as the clandestine return to Poonah of Balloo Tantia, the intended release of Pursuram Bhow and private meetings of late by night between Bajy Row and Nana which are probably not founded in fact, but originate in the preparation, distrust and alarm, conspicuous among the parties here ever since the affair of Malhar Row Holkar on the 14th ultimo.

I have already had the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your commands of the 1st ultimo, the only observation on which that it seems requisite to trouble you with at present is that, as you rather wish the suggested letter from the allies to Tippoo Sultan respecting his military preparation should not be written, and as no communication having reference thereto, has been made to me by any of the parties here, I shall for the present be silent on the subject.

On the subject of the projected mediation of the Company to compose the differences of the contending parties in this Empire, mentioned in the 3rd paragraph of my last address, you may be assured, Hon'ble Sir, that in the course of any discussions that may take place here, I shall carefully avoid involving you in responsibility or embarrassment, giving you regular advice of the progress of the negotiation should it be prosecuted, and leaving all delicate points to your decision.

On the 30th ultimo, I desired Meer Fokruddin to write a note to Gopaul Row that having communicated to me what had passed between them on the 28th, he had collected my sentiments on the subject, which he would submit to him in any manner that might best suit his convenience

The following is the substance of my answer "That the professions and conduct of the Company, for near twelve years past that Sir Charles Malet had resided at this Court, must have convinced all parties here of their equity and moderation and of their particular goodwill toward the Mahratta state, which must have been peculiarly impressive during the distractions in this Empire subsequent to the death of the late Peshwa Madhoo Row in October 1795, when so far from attempting to take an interested advantage of them, they (the Company) had made a tender of their good offices to effect a reconciliation among the contending parties here and a happy and permanent general settlement of the affairs of the state. That the same liberal disposition was still entertained by the Company, but that as the zealous and able efforts of Sir Charles Malet in January last on this point, though applauded by all parties, had proved abortive, I could hardly flatter myself that my humble endeavours would be attended with any good effect, though if he (Nana) wished to make the experiment they should be introduced and prosecuted with zeal and without national or personal prejudice agreeably to the orders of the Governor General "

"That as to Nana's retirement to Benares it would be time enough to discuss that point after the settlement of affairs here which he had suggested, should prove impracticable, for that, in the first instance, it was certainly highly desirable to us that he should continue to hold the office of the Peshwa's Prime Minister which he had filled for so many years, so much to the advantage of both states (the Mahrattas and the Company) "

I further instructed the Munshy in the event of Gopaul Row's signifying his not being perfectly satisfied with my message, to observe to him that it comprised a full answer to Nana's reserved overture, but that on Nana's

expressing a wish to prosecute the negotiation further and entering into details, I should be ready to submit to him my sentiments thereon with the utmost candour ; but that to do so, unasked, during his reserve, would have the appearance on my part of intrusive presumption and self importance, so that my silence thereon at present should not be ascribed to any deficiency of the most cordial goodwill to effect a happy reconciliation among friends, in which the interests of so many were involved.

You will observe, Hon'ble Sir, that that part of my message contained in the 7th paragraph, is conformable to your general instructions ; while on the second point, I have been guided by the 3rd paragraph of your instructions to Sir Charles Malet, of the 16th January last, which seems to accord also perfectly well with what was suggested on the occasion by civility and conciliation.

Having committed to paper some cursory reflections that have occurred to me on this subject I take the liberty of submitting them to you, in the idea that while they may possibly do some good, they can at least do no harm.

The assent of Bajy Row and Doulut Row Sindia to the suggested mediation seems requisite on general principles that mediation should be with the acquiescence of all the parties concerned, while the Governor General's orders likewise prescribe it on the same grounds, the acquiescence also of the Nizam, Ragojee Bhonsla, and Emrut Row is at least desirable, if not indispensable, and at all events it will be incumbent to avoid giving them offence, as well in the manner as the matter of the suggested mediation. The part taken by Doulut Row Sindia in the affairs of this quarter for these two years in which he has in fact taken the lead, the great influence he still possesses and his presence here, appear to present insurmountable obstacles to undertaking the mediation in question without his assent.

Considering the ambition, enmity, jealousy and revenge that have been engendered among the contending parties here, I cannot at present form to myself any mode of effecting such a reconciliation and general settlement as will be likely to be satisfactory to all parties, though Nana, I understand, professes not to expect so entire a control in the affairs of the state as he enjoyed under the late Peshwah Madhoo Row. The demonstration, however, of our readiness to interpose our good offices on the occasion may be attended with benefit both to us and the Mahrattas, without any apparent disadvantages.

In contemplating the affairs of this quarter since Madhoo Row's death in October 1795 it has frequently occurred to me that had Nana, waiving prejudice and respecting right, placed Bajy Row at that period in the Peshwaship and then retired to Benares it would have been an eligible arrangement, not only for the head, but also for most, if not all the members of the Mahratta Empire. Nana's ambition stimulated by his then recent

great success against the Nizam proved, however, an unsurmountable obstacle to such an arrangement at the period in question, and he may possibly have brought himself to conceive that the real interests of the state would have been best consulted by placing a minor in the Peshwaship from his experience of the prosperity enjoyed by the Mahratta Empire under his administration during the reign of Madhoo Row. But his violation of the indisputable right of the family of the late Ragoba was generally execrated in this quarter, though Nana had power and influence enough to maintain it for some time, and a favourable opening was thereby afforded for the introduction of the Sindian party into the affairs of the Peshwaship, who had long before attained so much weight as to brook with but an ill grace the supremacy of the Peshwa, the subversion of which, however, they probably would not have dared to attempt but for the occurrence of the above mentioned adventitious circumstances

On the subject of Nana's retirement to Benares, the following are among the circumstances that occur, as pregnant with obstacles in bringing it to a happy termination; his own ambition, pride and avarice, with these and many other passions, both good and bad, of his numerous coadjutors and adherents among whom may, perhaps, be included personages of no less consideration than Ragojee Bhonsla and Azim-ul-Omrah, the thirst of Bajy Row and Doulut Row Sindia after Nana's immense wealth of various denomination, even supposing them to waive their revenge, jealousy and apprehension of his professions of retirement not being sincere or being subject to revocation, a general persuasion that no one is so well qualified as Nana for the prosperous management of the affairs of the Peshwaship, to which may be added jealousy and envy toward the Company.

I shall refrain from troubling you, Honourable Sir, with any further reflections on this subject by the present opportunity

On the 2nd instant Doulut Row Sindia, attended by an unusually large body of troops and under mysterious circumstances, left his camp on the pretence of a hunting excursion, which occasioned a general alarm throughout this quarter during the whole of that day, though nothing very material ensued. In the evening there was an affray between some of the adherents of the Peshwa and of Kassi Row Holkar, in which one of the latter was killed and three or four wounded

On the 30th Ramchunder, the person mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of my address of the 23rd ultimo, was released from his confinement in Doulut Row Sindia's camp, the crime with which he was charged appearing, I understand, on investigation to be of a nature less heinous than had been at first suspected, though I do not hear that any punishment has been inflicted on his accuser, and it is said that he himself has been mulcted.

Intelligence has reached me, through many different channels, that Ragojee Bhonsla and Azim-ul-Omrah are acting in concert with Nana, and rumours are in circulation that those two chiefs will ere long be again in this quarter with a large force to support Nana. It scarcely admits of doubt that they have both hitherto inclined rather to the side of Nana than of Doulut Row.

No. 33—Uthhoff reports the request of Nana for British mediation between the Peshwa, Daulatrao and himself, in order to effect a reconciliation among the various parties at the Court of Poona.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th October 1797.

On the 4th instant I was officially advised by Moro Pundit that Tippoo's Vakeels had taken leave of Nana Furnavees the preceding evening.

On the 4th, also a letter was presented to me from Jijy Byhe, the elder wife of the late Malhar Row Holkar, referring me to the bearer of it for a communication she had to make to me, who accordingly represented that she was in fact a prisoner in the camp of Kassi Row Holkar; for though he treated her with outward marks of attention yet was all intercourse between her and her former acquaintances prohibited, and there was reason to apprehend that she would be conveyed against her will to some hill fort and kept a prisoner, even if her life were spared, which was also in some danger; and that she and a young wife of Malhar Row were treated with the more rigor from being both pregnant, it being evidently the intention of Malhar Row's enemies, among whom Bappoo Holkar the cousin was still more inveterate than Kassi Row, the brother, to destroy his offspring. She added that she could not bear to live in dependence on the murderers of her husband, and requested my good offices with the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees to obtain for her some situation independent of them. Through the same channel and likewise through another, I have received a corroboration of Jaswant Row Holkar's having proceeded to Hyderabad. All accounts agree that Ittojee Holkar is in Poona.

I endeavoured to reconcile her to her situation by assurances that no violence would be committed against her, adding that though it was not within my province to take any part in her concerns, yet that on principles of humanity I would avail myself of any opportunity that might offer, to recommend her case and that of the distressed adherents of the late Malhar Row to the favourable consideration of the Peshwa and Nana.

A pair of cossids who arrived here with letters for Tippoo's Vakeels on the 5th instant, say that when they left Seringapatam about the middle of September, Tippoo was still there.

The message mentioned in my last address having been delivered to Nana through Gopaul Row Munshy, he expressed a wish that Fukkruddin should wait upon him which he did accordingly on the 6th instant, and on recapitulating my former message, assured Nana of the goodwill of our Government toward the Mahratta state in general, and himself in particular, through whom a connexion had been established and cultivated for many years, to the mutual advantage of both Powers, with the addition that from the long residence of Sir Charles Malet and myself at this Court, we felt a peculiar interest in the welfare of the state and himself, which we should be happy to evince in any manner that might be in our power; for the further demonstration of which, a short time only now remained from Sir Charles Malet's expected early departure for Europe, and Colonel Palmer's assumption of this Residency, and that, if in the interim, any opening were to offer for promoting his welfare, it would afford us peculiar satisfaction to embrace it, of which one strong instance had been already shewn in the discussions that had passed through Dada Gujra respecting the cession of Bancot, a district peculiarly desirable to him (Nana).

Nana's reply to the above communication was to the following purport. That he was perfectly sensible of the goodwill of our government to the Mahratta state in general and himself in particular, which had been a source of great satisfaction and confidence to him throughout the whole of the distractions in the Mahratta Empire subsequent to the death of the late Peshwa Mhadhoo Row in October 1795 That he was now advanced in years and that it was, in fact, a matter of indifference to him whether the management of the affairs of the state were vested in him or not, but that the continuance of the prosperity they had formerly enjoyed under his administration was an object of the most anxious desire to him, and that it was with a view thereto that he solicited the Company's mediation to effect a reconciliation among the parties here, and a general settlement of the affairs of the state That he had fulfilled the engagements he had entered into with Azim-ul-Omrah and Ragojee Bhonsla who had in consequence proceeded to their respective homes, and that as far as rested with him, no deviation had taken place from the engagements that were made with Doulut Row Sindia who professed a wish to proceed to Hindustan. That the great evil, however, was that confidence was not established among Bajy Row, Doulut Row and himself That he was therefore desirous of the Company's mediation which should be proposed by me to Bajy Row and Doulut Row as a friendly advance, but on no account as being at his suggestion Nana admitted the friendliness of the overtures respecting the cession of Bancote which was peculiarly desirable to him, but on which point it was requisite to procure the assent of Bajy Row, for which the present was not auspicious.

Fukkruddin was introduced to this meeting by Gopaul Rou Munshy who intimated that a good understanding subsisted between Nana and Emrut Rou, and that I might consult the latter on the subject of the

suggested mediation, but neither Gopaul Rou, nor any other person, was present during Fukruddin's conference with Nana.

Both on the 5th and 6th instant there were long private consultations at Nana's house, at which were present besides Nana himself, Govin Kishen, Govin Pingleh, Dada Gujra and Bappoo Selokur on his part, and on the part of Doulut Rou Sindia, Bannaje Huzra, Konnojee Huzra, Kisna Chitnavees, Jaddo Rou Bhasker, Babboo Rou Angria and Wittal Pundit.

I had instructed Fukruddin to avail himself of any favourable opportunity that might offer during his meeting with Nana on the 6th instant, to submit certain points to him; the answers to which were to the following purport. That according to his intelligence Tippoo Sultan was still at Seringapatam, but that from Hyderabad he heard a great deal of his being engaged in warlike preparations and having taken the field in person, which seemed to originate in the apprehensions, of that Court on account of their difference with Tippoo about Kurnool which it were much to be wished were amicably settled, as he (Nana) had recommended to Azim-ul-Omrah. That he had communicated to me the substance of Tippoo's late letters to this Court which appeared quite sufficient, copies being neither necessary nor conformable to custom. That he would give particular injunctions to Moro Pundit to expedite the settlement of the points in negotiation between the Durbar and this Residency.

I had instructed the Munshy to recommend the case of Jijy Byhe and the distressed adherents of the late Malhar Rou Holkar, particularly the wounded who are still at this Residency, to the favourable notice of Nana who expressed his grief at the melancholy fate of Malhar Rou but without any assurances of relief to the survivors.

No. 34—Uththoff reports increasing illwill between Nana and Daulatrao. The arrival of Raghuji Bhosla to help the former was expected.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,
TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, G. G.,
FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 10th October 1797.

On the 7th instant, Bajy Row and Chimna Appa paid a visit to Doulut Rou Sindia, as did Emrut Rou the ensuing day.

A report has reached me through private channels, that Doulut Rou Sindia, as a consideration for acquiescing in Bajy Rou's wishes for his continuance in this quarter, has of late made sundry requisitions, one of which is, that the affairs of the Company, the Nizam and Tippoo with

the Peshwa should be conducted through him, to which Bajy Rou has declined assenting

On the 3rd instant arrived in Doulut Rou Sindia's camp Ramjee Patell, who acted for some years as the vakeel of Doulut Rou Sindia and his predecessor with the Peshwa, and has been of late living in disgrace and retirement, on account of the partiality he shewed to the cause of Nana Furnavees during the interregnum that existed between the death of the late Peshwa Madhoo Rou in October 1795, and the accession of Bajy Rou in the ensuing Febraury. Kundoo Cheyla, a slave lad, is of late one of Doulut Rou Sindia's principal confidants

Among the rumours in circulation here, one is that a reconciliation is about to be effected between Nana and Doulut Rou Sindia, for the promotion of which the former is said to have paid the latter some laks of rupees within these few days ; which I believe to be authentic to the amount of at least two or three laks, but I have considerable doubts of cordial reconciliation between them being attainable at any price and the payments above alluded to, may have been on some other account

I have received a confirmation of Ragojee Bhonsla's arrival at Naugpore. A variety of circumstances having reference to him that have come to my knowledge during his residence in this quarter, on his journey to Naugpore and subsequent to his arrival there, tend to corroborate his acting in concert with Nana and Azim-ul-Omra rather than his being neuter and that he entertains considerable jealousy and ill-will toward Doulut Rou Sindia. So far from having lately disbanded any of his troops, many of whom had been raised during the late convulsions in this quarter in addition to his former fixed establishment, I am informed, that since his return to Naugpore, he has issued orders for new levies and rumours are in circulation in Doulut Rou Sindia's camp that both Ragojee Bhonsla and Azimul-Omra will probably be again in this quarter ere long in support of Nana's cause. I have not heard that the fort of Gurra Mundela is yet in the possession of Ragojee Bhonsla

No. 35—Uthtoff forwards to Sir Charles Malet Daulatrao Sindia's and Baburao Angria's request for British support in his attempt to gain the possession of Kolaba

FROM—JOSHUA UHTHOFF,

TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET, BART, etc, etc

Poona, 14th October 1797

Repeated applications have been made to me by Baburao Angria, supported by Daulatrao Sindia and his ministry, for a letter to your address, requesting you would take measures for precluding Jaising Angria from

obtaining military stores and other supplies at Bombay, and that you would allow of supplies being furnished to him (Baburao) on the application of Laximan Rao Appa, his Agent at Bombay, to which purpose it was intimated that Daulatrao had addressed you.

I observed in reply, that Daulatrao's written application to you precluded any occasion for my addressing you on the subject; which was the less necessary, as I could venture to assure him that your conduct, both to himself (Baburao) and Jaising Angria, would be conformable to engagements and friendship.

Baburao continuing however to urge me for a letter to your address, I prefer troubling you with these few lines to giving him a refusal which, without doing any good, might be cause of offence not only to him, but also to Daulatrao Sindia and his ministers.

No. 36—Uthhoff reports two occurrences of importance, viz., the departure of Tipu's Vakils from Poona and the imprisonment of three Italian priests by the Raja of Kolhapur. Uthhoff secured their release through the help of Nana Fadnis.

FROM—JOSHUA UTHHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 14th October 1797.

On the 12th instant Tippoo's vakeels made their first march from Poona, on their return to Syringputtan. I have regularly reported to you, Hon'ble Sir, everything material that had come to my knowledge respecting their actions and designs. Their commission from Tippoo Saib may possibly have embraced some object eventually inimical to us; and conversation may have passed between them and some of the parties here, in which expressions may have been used inimical to us, with an interested view, or to collect each other's disposition or sentiments towards us. On a general view of the subject, however, if I might presume to hazard an opinion, it would be with due submission and diffidence that the embassy in question is not likely to involve consequences inimical or materially embarrassing to us.

In the month of February last, three Italian Roman Catholic priests, named Jelumino, Giovanni Sorenzo and Geovanni Battisla proceeding by way of Goa by land, from Bombay to Madras, at which latter place they have, I understand, some establishment, fell in with a body of troops belonging to the Raja of Kolhapoor (the chief of the Malwans, on the Malabar coast) who seized, plundered and confined them. Mr. Jelumino an elderly man who accompanied Lord Cornwallis's army during the last war against Tippoo, and is well-known in the Carnatic, obtained his

release in a few days for the professed purpose of proceeding to seek wherewithal to ransom his companions. Returning to Bombay, he obtained a letter to my address from Sir Charles Malet, then in the Government, desiring I would take such means as might be in my power, to procure the release of the confined priests, and on an application to the Durbar for this purpose, I was furnished with a letter from Nana Furnavees to the Raja of Kolhapoor, which I immediately dispatched. It was not however till the 9th instant that the two priests arrived here, having in the interim experienced very rigorous confinement in the fort of Bowra.

No. 37—Uthtoff thanks the Governor of Bombay for having made satisfactory provision for the medical needs of the Residency.

FROM—THE ASSISTANT RESIDENT, POONA,

TO—The Hon'ble JONATHAN DUNCAN, ESQ, PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

Poona, 17th October 1797.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letters of the 4th and 10th instant and to present you my best thanks for your liberal attention to my requests in favour of Messrs Findlay and Fildes, and for the very satisfactory mode in which you have provided for the medical department of the Residency.

I have the honour to enclose for your information extracts of my late addresses to the Governor General, with copy of a letter to Sir Charles Malet's address, which I delivered to Baburao Angria on the 14th instant

No. 38—The Assistant Resident reports to the Governor General the terms on which Baburao Angria was prepared to form an agreement with the British Government in order to secure the possession of Kolaba.

FROM—JOSHUA UHTHOFF,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17th October 1797

On the 15th instant Baburao Angria intimated to me, through Ganpatrao, Colonel Palmer's Agent with Daulatrao Sindia, that he was on the point of dispatching a body of troops to Colaba to enforce his claims to that

chiefship, and that he was in consequence desirous of entering into an engagement with the Company, on the following conditions.

1st. That the Bombay Government should not supply Jaising Angria or the present occupants of Colaba with warlike stores, grain, provisions, or any kind of necessaries. That if any of their vessels should enter the harbour of Bombay, they should be seized and detained; and that a prohibition should be issued against Dhakjee, or any other traders of Bombay, affording any supplies to Jaising and his party.

2nd. That should he (Baburao) have occasion for any of the Company's vessels to act against the present occupants of Colaba, they should be furnished.

3rd. That as his (Baburao's) troops were going against Colaba, they might possibly, when in that neighbourhood, be in want of military stores, provisions, or other necessaries; in which case permission should be given for their making the requisite purchases at Bombay.

4th. That on his (Baburao's) taking possession of Colaba and being established therein, his conduct towards us should on all occasions be conformable to engagements and friendship.

5th. That details and further particulars would be discussed after our assent should be given to the above four articles.

The following is the answer that I have given through Ganpatrao, to Baburao Angria's above message.

"You may be assured that the conduct of the Bombay Government towards both yourself and Jaising Angria will be conformable to engagements and friendship; and that no military stores will be furnished by us to the latter; and it affords me much satisfaction to perceive by the 4th article of the propositions you have submitted to me that you are equally well disposed to act towards us agreeably to engagements and friendship, which cannot fail of being attended with mutual benefit to the governments both of Bombay and Colaba."

No. 39—Temporary reconciliation between Nana and Daulatrao is reported to have been effected at Poona, says Uththoff.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 21st October 1797.

On the 17th Meer Fukuaddin communicated in person to Emrut Rou the message contained in the 9th paragraph of my address of the 14th instant, which was well received by Emrut Rou who observed, however, that he did not see any occasion for the assent of Doulut Rou Sindia to the Company's suggested mediation, for that he was only a servant of the state, but that I should be furnished with the assent of Baajy Rou which was, indeed, a mere matter of course, for that they (Baajy Rou and Emrut Rou) were one. Emrut Rou added, that at the meeting of the preceding day

at the palace between the three brothers and Nana and Doulut Rou a general settlement had taken place, and that he (Emrut Rou) and Nana were to act in concert in the management of affairs as the executive ministry of the Peshwa Bajy Rou, but that to arrange details of the matter would require some little time, and that the Company's mediation to effect a reconciliation and good understanding between him (Emrut Rou) and Nana was still very desirable.

The meeting among the above mentioned personages on the 16th instant is very generally said to have had for its object a reconciliation of parties and a settlement of the affairs of this quarter, but on a general view of the subject, it appears to me that although some little temporary accommodation or cessation of conspicuous violent animosity may have taken place, yet, that nothing like a cordial reconciliation and stable permanent settlement of affairs have been effected. Doulut Rou Sindia's guards continue at the Peshwa's palace in town and though Doulut Rou throws out occasional hints of proceeding to Hindoostan, yet there is reason to conclude that he will not, under present circumstances, gratify Nana on that point without at least the payment of a very large sum of money which the claims and clamours of his troops require, and which he has at present power and influence to enforce. Some connexion appears to have been lately formed between Emrut Rou and Nana which is said to have for its object the elevation of Vinaik Rou, the son of the former, to the prejudice of Bajy Rou, but though Nana may under present circumstances find it convenient to bring over Emrut Rou to his party, yet in the event of Doulut Rou's proceeding to Hindoostan there is reason to think that Nana will not admit Emrut Rou to an equal participation in the management of the affairs of the Poona Government

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On the 20th instant Kassi Rou Holkar paid a visit to Doulut Rou Sindia

Intelligence reaches me from Naugpore with tolerable expedition and regularity. By the last accounts, Ragojee Bhonsla was preparing for a religious excursion to Ramtaik and Chanda

On the 17th Emrut Rou assured Meer Fukuaddin of his attention to my suggestion in favour of Jeejy Byhe and the other distressed adherents, particularly the wounded, of the late Malhar Rou Holkar

No. 40—Uthhoff reports to the Governor General the position of the two claimants to the possession of Kolaba.

FROM—MR. JOSHUA UHTHOFF,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 24th October 1797.

Ganpatrao informs me that on the subject of Sir Charles Malet's late answer to Daulatrao Sindia's letter, and my message respecting Baburao

Angria, Daulatrao had observed that on the point of friendship whatever had been said was perfectly proper ; but that there was not any answer on the point of favouring the cause of Baburao, in preference to Jaising ; that the former was a well-wisher of the infant son of the late Ragojee Angria, and that his object was to relieve him from the tyranny and oppression of Jaising. I desired Ganpatrao to take a favourable opportunity of representing to Daulatrao that on a deliberate consideration of the sentiments of Sir Charles Malet and myself on this point, they would be discovered to be founded in right, and conformable to the treaties and friendship between the Company and the Marathas.

No. 41—Uthhoff mentions several requisitions which Daulatrao Sindia had made upon the Peshwa for immediate compliance.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—SIR JOHN SHORE, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 26th October 1797.

Mr. Boyd has been constrained by the Sindian party, much against his own inclination, to make over the whole of his corps and military apparatus to Colonel Catielho Felose, for the sum of thirty-five thousand (35,000) Rupees. Doulut Rou refused to entertain Mr. Boyd with his corps and intimated to him, in very intelligible terms, that he would not be permitted to take employment with any party here, nor to seek service elsewhere. It is, at present, Mr. Boyd's intention to repair to Bombay, preparatory to his proceeding to Europe or America.

Gunput Row, Colonel Palmer's Agent here, informs me that he has been assured by Kishna Chitnavees, Abbah's brother, one of the principal and most respectable of the Sindian Ministry, that Doulut Rou's late letter to Tippoo by the Vakeels Abdalla Beg and Reza Ally Beg, was merely of a complimentary nature in answer to Tippoo's and in acknowledgment of the congratulatory present on the accession of Bajy Rou to the Peshwaship.

I learn, through a channel of some credibility, that since the rejection of Doulut Rou Sindia's requisitions mentioned in the 6th paragraph of my address of the 17th instant, he has submitted to Bajy Rou the following propositions, which have likewise met with an unfavourable reception, the withdrawal of Ally Bahadur from Hindoostan, the abolition of the Peshwa's share of Deysmookhy in the Ahmednuggur and other districts lately ceded to Doulut Rou, the immediate payment in cash of the balance due to Doulut Rou agreeably to the engagements which restored Bajy Rou to the Peshwaship, and the cancelment of all the Peshwa's former claims on the Sindian Chiefship, the permanent attachment to the Sindian Party of the quotas of Raja Bahadur and Wittul Sivdev which have

occasionally acted with Sindia by the Peshwa's orders, every possible support in the prosecution of Doulut Rou's views on the Angria Chiefship of Colaba in the Concan opposite to Bombay. The patrimony of most of the governmental Bramins being in the Concan which, indeed, they hold to be very dear, if not a sacred ground, they will probably view with a very jealous eye the establishment of the Sindian Chiefship at Colaba, and the country cannot fail to suffer very severely, particularly at the present season of harvest from the march of Doulut Rou's troops to that quarter. They have not yet actually left this, but preparations for their departure are on foot.

On the 25th instant Nana Furnavees went to the Peshwa's palace and had an interview with Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou

No progress has been made since my last address in the negotiations for the Company's mediation to effect a reconciliation and settlement of affairs in this quarter. There is not at present any appearance of Doulut Rou Sindia's acquiescing therein. Emrut Rou and Nana would, I believe, rejoice at our interposition without the assent of Doulut Rou, by which they would probably bring Baajy Rou over to their party and overawe the Sindian Durbar.

It seems to fall within my province to submit to you, Honourable Sir, whether the application of Nana for a supply of military stores, mentioned in the 6th paragraph of the letter from the Assistant at Hyderabad to your address of the 18th instant, may not afford a precedent for some or all of the members of the Mahratta Empire of a similar application; and, consequently that the decision to which you may be pleased to come on the former requisition, should be of such a nature as to apply to a similar eventual requisition from the latter. On the general principles of consistency and rectitude by which the British Government in India is regulated, it would seem that no distinction can reasonably be made by us between the two applications above referred to. The government of Hyderabad being now generally supposed to favour the cause of Nana against that of Doulut Rou Sindia, our compliance with the application in question may be likely to give offence to Doulut Rou. As to the advisableness, on general principles, of supplying the native powers of India with military stores, or how far it may suit our convenience to comply with the present or any other application, it is unnecessary and might be deemed presumptuous for me to attempt to afford any lights to assist your judgment, and as to the advisableness of supplying the Court of Hyderabad with military stores under present circumstances, it would be presumption in me to interfere with the province of the Hyderabad Residency on this point. I mean not to apply these principles to the comparatively immaterial measure of supplying the six condemned field pieces, now at Hyderabad to W. Finglass, who, it affords me satisfaction to find, has proved himself worthy of Captain Kirkpatrick's confidence.

On the 27th instant Nana Furnavees had another interview with Bajy Rou and Emrut Row at the Peshwa's Palace in town at which oaths of reconciliation are said to have been repeated. Hints have been conveyed to me from Emrut Rou that unless some reserve on our part is speedily dispensed with, a general reconciliation and settlement may be effected without the Company's participation. He has, however, at the same time, had the candour to acknowledge, that the Company's mediation would continue to be highly acceptable and that however difficult it may be to obtain the assent thereto of Doulut Rou Sindia, yet that friendship, impartiality, and consistency are in support of the conduct I have adopted in requiring Doulut Rou's acquiescence as a preliminary, though not exactly consonant to his (Emrut Rou's) wishes, which would be more completely gratified by the Company's mediation being confined to effecting a thorough reconciliation and confidence between Bajy Rou, Nana and himself.

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Poona, 28th October 1797.

No. 42—J. Uthhoff discusses the question what advantages or disadvantages would accrue to the Company by their interposition in the affairs of Poona in order to secure Sindia's departure to the North.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, Bt., GOVERNOR GENERAL, FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 11th November 1797.

I have the honor to acquaint you that one of Emrut Rou's confidants, though without the avowed sanction of his principal, intimates to me that at the interview between Emrut Rou and Meer Fukruddin on the 5th instant, mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of my last address, it had been the intention of the former to submit the two following points to me, had he not been prevented by the intrusion at that meeting of Wittul Pundit, the agent of the Sindian party with the Peshwa. That as to what I had observed of the advisableness of obtaining the assent of Doulut Rou Sindia to the interposition of the Company's mediation to effect a reconciliation and general settlement of affairs here, it was in vain to make any application on the subject to the Sindian Party in whom no confidence could be placed, and who could become the more exorbitant in their demands and the more troublesome in enforcing them, and that it was therefore the intention of Nana and himself (Emrut Rou) to despatch Doulut Rou to Hindostan and then introduce the Company's mediation to effect a reconciliation and settlement among Bajy Rou, Emrut Rou and Nana without the participation of Doulut Rou. That the second point was, how far the interposition of the Company was admissible in opposition to the designs of the Sindian Party and Baboo Rou on Colaba on the ground of the engagements which existed between the Government of Bombay and the Angrian Chiefship.

An indirect intimation has been made to me, that it is in agitation to apply to the Company for a loan to enable the Poona Government to make such a payment to Doulut Rou Sindia as will induce him to proceed to Hindoostan, or at least, to obtain our guarantee for Doulut Rou's faithful observance of such engagements as he may enter into with the Poona Government on the point of his dispatch to Hindoostan.

I understand that both Emrut Rou and Nana are very desirous to effect the removal of Doulut Rou Sindia from this quarter, for which purpose they would make some sacrifices, particularly pecuniary ones, but that both Emrut Rou and Nana have not any confidence on Doulut Rou abiding by his part of the engagement after receiving the stipulated sums, and that they therefore propose to pay the money by instalments on Doulut Rou's arrival at Jamgao, Burhanpore, Oojeen, and on his crossing the Chambul. On the one hand cash is very desirable to the Sindian party for the payment of their troops and the gratification of the avarice of the ministers; while on the other, they are disinclined to relinquish the influence they possess in this quarter by continuing here with large force. Bajy Rou appears not to have implicit confidence in either Emrut Rou, Nana or Doulut Rou, and the two former seem desirous of introducing the Company's mediation in such a manner as to draw Bajy Rou over to their party. Were Doulut Rou to proceed immediately to Hindoostan it seems not unlikely that Nana should establish an ascendancy over both Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou.

On a general view of the present state of affairs in the Mahratta Empire it seems to me that it is rather favourable to us, though it might, perhaps, be still more creditable and beneficial to us were the reconciliation among the parties and a general settlement to be effected through the Company's mediation. Were the Mahrattas united and strong, they might be able to afford us more effectual assistance than they could, at present, against Zemaun Shah, Tippoo and the French, but it does not appear that there is, at present much danger to be apprehended from the three latter powers, jointly or separately, while the Mahratta ascendancy, if it did exist, would, I fear, be more likely to be used to our detriment than benefit, unless indeed the Mahrattas felt themselves under obligations to us for such ascendancy; but even on the good effect to us of such obligations implicit confidence should not be placed.

I understand that the dissolution of Chimna Appa's adoption, mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of my last address, was not with the assent of Doulut Rou Sindia who waived compliance with an invitation that was sent to him to be present at the ceremonies on that occasion.

On the 7th instant Nana Furnavees proceeded to the Peshwa's palace, with an unusually large number of attendants, which perhaps may have been for security against Sindia's guards there.

On the 10th instant Nana Furnavees again attended the Peshwa's Durbar.

No. 43—Uthhoff reports that Kolaba was besieged by Sindia's troops and requests that measures should be taken to guard British interests involved in the affair.

FROM—MR. JOSHUA UTHHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

Poona, 11th November 1797.

Baburao Angria, finding that he could not prevail upon us, merely in deference to himself and Daulatrao Sindia at the expense of our rights and interests, to put an immediate stop to all intercourse between Bombay and the present occupants of Colaba, has submitted to me, how far such intercourse will be admissible when he may have formed the siege or blockade of Colaba. It would appear that this would constitute a new predicament, under which intercourse with Colaba might perhaps be precluded by the law of nations and, at all events, the intercourse between Bombay and Colaba would, under such circumstances, be liable to be materially obstructed by Baburao much to our prejudice. Still, however, it seems advisable that we should maintain an uninterrupted intercourse between Bombay and Colaba as long as we can with propriety and security, and it is not in any point of view desirable to us that the Sindian influence should be established at Colaba, I have signified to Baburao that, though in certain points I might feel myself warranted in complying in the first instance with his wishes to which I was extremely well inclined, yet that the point in question was of so important a nature that it was advisable the application should be made through the Peshwa, as the head of the Empire and the personage in this quarter with whom it was my especial duty to negotiate.

Daulatrao Sindia's two battalions of infantry mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of my address of the 4th instant have made but little progress on their march to Colaba. In Poona there are rumours that the Peshwa has required Baburao to relinquish his designs against Colaba, and that in consequence the troops detached on that service have received orders to halt at least, if not to return hither. It seems, however, to be a prevalent idea in Sindia's camp that the expedition against Colaba will be prosecuted, though they are aware that it is viewed in a very exceptionable light by the Brahmins in general and the Poona Government in particular; many villages in the route toward Colaba taken by Sindia's detachment have been deserted on account of the excesses committed by the detachment, in plunder and pressing the inhabitants' cattle and carriages.

No. 44—Terms of an agreement suggested by Baburao Angria are herein reported by Uththoff for the consideration of the Bombay Government.

Translation of a paper received by Mr. Joshua Uththoff on the 17th November 1797, from Baburao Angria, through Ganptrao, Colonel Palmer's Agent with Daulatrao Sindia.

1st Article

The troops of Daulatrao Sindia and Baburao Angria are now on their march to the fort of Colaba. It is requested that no impediment whatever may be thrown in the way of a free intercourse between that party and Bombay, but that the traders on both sides may be permitted to pass backwards and forwards, with provisions, grain, cloth and other necessaries, and dispose of them agreeably to the market price. To this purport a letter is requested to the address of the Governor of Bombay.

2nd Article

Whatever friendship agreeably to engagement has hitherto subsisted between the Company and the house of Angria, shall continue with me

3rd Article.

Jaising, who is in rebellion in the fort of Colaba, shall not receive any support or assistance from the Company, nor shall shot, powder, or any kind of provisions or necessaries be furnished to him from Bombay.

4th Article.

The traders of Bombay shall be prohibited by the Governor from conveying provisions, necessaries, &c. to Colaba, nor shall any personal intercourse be permitted. Whatever vessels belonging to Jaising may go to Bombay, let them be seized and detained, and on no account be permitted to convey necessaries to him

5th Article.

If it should become requisite, let some of the Company's vessels be permitted to act with me (Baburao).

6th Article

Whatever detail matters may be requisite will be hereafter discussed and settled

True translation

(Signed) J. UHTHOFF.

No. 45—Uthhoff mentions among other subjects Sindia's efforts to extort cash from Nana and others to satisfy the needs of his army.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th November 1797.

I have the honor to acquaint you that an application was made to me by the Durbar a few days ago, for a letter of exemption from government customs, in favour of Antajee Bapoojee and Rajeshwur Bhut Wyed, with their attendants, who were proceeding on a pilgrimage to Benares, Gaya and Pryaug. I intimated to the Durbar, in reply, that the affair of the pilgrims had engaged the particular attention of our government, who had removed all the inconveniences under which they had formerly laboured, established sundry salutary regulations for their benefit, and had even considerably reduced the customary duties to government, which precluded the pilgrims from having anything further in reason to require of us, and that exemption from duties was therefore now granted only in a few particular cases, as a mark of deference to certain personages of elevated rank, such as Doorga Bhye, the maternal grandmother of the late Peshwa Madhoo Rou, but could not apply to the above mentioned persons who were wealthy subjects of the Mahratta Empire not holding any public situation in the state. It was intimated to me in reply that exemption from duties was still granted by us, of which two instances were adduced of inhabitants of Bombay at the recommendation of that Government; of which I expressed my ignorance with an observation that admitting the fact, it could not serve as a precedent for the application in question. It was then signified to me that the exemption from duties would be waived, but that a letter of recommendation was requested in favour of the two persons above mentioned, in consequence of which I have given them a letter of introduction to the attention and good offices of Mr. Cherry to whom I sent a copy of this paragraph.

Buchajee Pundit, the brother of the late Behroo Pundit, of whose enlargement I had the honor to advise you in the 3rd paragraph of my address of the 31st ultimo, has lately sent a message to me through a confidential person that although now released and living at the house of his relation, Appa Bulwunt, yet that he could not feel himself at ease, while Bhaskar Pundit, the only son of his elder brother Behroo Pundit, suffered a rigorous imprisonment in irons, from which there were no hopes of releasing him but through the good offices of the Company. I offered Buchajee Pundit my sincere congratulations on his enlargement, which I should have conveyed to him at an earlier period, had any favourable channel of communication been open to me; with an observation as to Bhaskar Pundit, that it was a matter of much difficulty and delicacy. You

will recollect, Honourable Sir, that Bhaskar Pundit was a very conspicuous and odious character during the administration of Pursaram Bhou and Behroo Pundit under the Peshwaship of Chimna Appa.'

Intelligence has reached me through many different channels of the existence of disturbances in Tippoo's country, in the quarter of Carwar and Goa, which are assigned as the cause of some of Tippoo's military preparations.

There are appearances of the Sindian party being in great distress for cash and of backwardness on the part of Nana to supply their pecuniary wants on any other condition than that of their proceeding to Hindoostan. The former may, however, perhaps by threats and hostile appearances extort some money from the Court of Hyderabad or Nana, or both; and another source of supply is an assessment on the members of the Sindian party who are obnoxious to Doulut Rou and his present confidants.

On the night of the 17th instant, there was an exhibition of fire-works at a pagoda in this neighbourhood, at which were present Bajy Rou, Chimna Appa, Emrut Rou, and Nana Furnavees, but not Doulut Rou Sindia

No. 46—Uthhoff reports to the G. G. the progress made by Baburao Angria in his siege of Kolaba and the reply he gave to the latter's request for an agreement.

FROM—Mr. JOSHUA UHTHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

Poona, 21st November 1797.

I have the honour to enclose translation of a paper of requisitions which has been submitted to me, through Ganpatrao, by Baburao Angria, supported by the Sindian party

It is doubtless desirable to us that the Sindian influence should not be established in so important a place close to Bombay as Colaba, and there is every reason to think that the Peshwa, Nana Furnavees, Emrut Rao and the Brahmins in general are very much averse to the prosecution of Baburao's present designs on that principality. On the other hand, Daulatrao Sindia, as the guarantee of the treaties between the Peshwa and the Company, and from the power and influence that he possesses in the Maratha Empire, is entitled to particular attention from us. Amidst this choice of difficulties I have endeavoured, though with what success I cannot yet pretend to say, to steer such a course as should give the least possible offence to any party, particularly the Sindian, for exclusive of the general principles above mentioned we should advert to the possible,

if not probable, contingency that Baburao may make himself master of Colaba, and it is also advisable to keep in mind that the Sindian party have it now in their power to give us considerable trouble in the affair of the succession to the late Nawab Vizeer, which renders it prudent to be particularly careful to avoid irritating them at the present crisis.

Under these circumstances, I have signified to Baburao through Ganpatrao that it appeared unnecessary to enter into a discussion in detail of the articles he had submitted to me. That he might be assured that the conduct of the Company toward him and his adherents would be conformable to engagement friendship and equity, as a convincing proof of which and as an amicable termination of the present discussions I was willing to grant him a letter of recommendation to the Government of Bombay, in prevention of all impediments to the free intercourse warranted by the existing regulations between Bombay and his party during its stay in the neighbourhood of Colaba. The only answer that I have yet received from Baburao is that he would submit my proposition to Daulatrao Sindia. Considering the interestedness and arrogance of the Sindian party, it is hardly to be expected that they will be thus easily satisfied.

No. 47—Letters that passed between Sir Charles Malet and Uhthoff on the subject of the Angrian dispute were laid before the Bombay Council.

Bombay Castle, 19th December 1797.

At a Council,

Sir Charles Malet lays before the Board copy of a letter to his address from Mr. Uhthoff, Acting Resident at Poona, of his answer with translation of a letter from Daulatrao Sindia alluded to in the letter.

Sir Charles Warre Malet, Bart., Bombay.

Poona, 27th November 1797.

Sir,

I have the honour to address you, by desire of Baburao Angria, to request you will be pleased to take the requisite measures to prevent any impediment to the free intercourse between Bombay and his (Baburao's) people, in all points warranted by existing regulations.

For further particulars on this subject I beg leave to refer you to my address of this date, to the Bombay Government.

No. 47A.

TO—JOSHUA UHTHOFF Esq, RESIDENT, Etc, Etc, POONA.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 27th ultimo communicating the request in behalf of Baburao Angria you will be pleased to acquaint him that his people may hold free intercourse with Bombay, consistently with the friendship with the Angrian and Sindian chiefships, which renders the existence of any differences amongst themselves a matter of sorrow, and from all interference in which, we shall, as becomes us, most punctiliously refrain. The Board's sentiments on your letter of the 27th ultimo have been already conveyed to you by the Secretary under the 5th instant.

Having lately received from Sindia a letter signifying his intention of sending to Bombay Mr. Du Pratt to purchase clothing for a part of his troops, I wish to observe, that in the present state of affairs we would prefer his employing any other agent than a Frenchman in any business which he may have to transact here, although from the facility with which the matter recommended in Sindia's letter is managed by people here, and some are now employed thercon, I am of opinion that the trouble of sending any special agent on the occasion is unnecessary, it is also my wish that, should it be deemed necessary by the Sindian Darbar to send any agent here, as signified in the letter alluded to, it were previously communicated to the Residency at Poona, in order that such advice as friendship required might be given in the first instance, and to ensure, if admitted, the attention due to the agent appointed

No. 48—Uthtoff reports that the prospect of a happy and permanent settlement of affairs at Poona was faint and distant and dilates on the debaucheries and voluptuous conduct of Daulatrao, who is mentioned as possessing an imperious bent of mind and an activity of body with little greatness or goodness

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, G G

Poona, 4th December 1797

A few days ago I received a message from Amrut Rou urging in very pressing terms on the part of the Peshwa and himself, exemption from duties at Benares for one thousand pilgrims, without however specifying any names, and I have reason to think it was meant to operate in favour of one of the persons and his followers, to whose application acquiescence was declined when urged on the part of the Peshwa and Nana through Moro Pundit, as mentioned in the 1st paragraph of my address of the 18th

ultimo. My answer on this occasion was to the same purport as on the former, with an expression of my goodwill to act agreeably to the wishes of the Peshwa and Emrut Rou, and a reference to the Minister Nana Furnavees for a confirmation of the justness of the grounds on which I found myself reluctantly necessitated to waive compliance on the present occasion. No direct answer has yet been sent to me, but an intimation has been conveyed through private channels that an application may be made to Doulut Rou Sindia, who through Colonel Palmer will obtain the exemption in question. My conduct on the present occasion has been with a view to get rid of an unreasonable, unnecessary requisition (acquiescence in which would have established a precedent to the detriment of our revenue) without subjecting you to the mortification of putting a negative thereon, the odium of which I have taken on myself. I have perfect confidence, Honourable Sir, that whatever gracious acts you may be pleased to show toward this Court, will be through the medium of your representative on the spot in promotion of his official and personal respectability as conducive to our national credit and interests at this Court.

For some days past there has been a good deal of alarm and preparation in Poona and in the camp of Doulut Rou Sindia; the Sindian Party appear to be in great distress for cash for the payment of their troops now considerably in arrears, which Nana shows great backwardness to supply on any other condition than that of their proceeding to Hindoostan to which, on the other hand, they (the Sindian Party) seem disinclined under present circumstances. Neither Doulut Rou nor Nana have been at the Peshwa's palace for some weeks past. On the whole, the prospect of a happy and permanent settlement of affairs here is as faint and distant as ever. Some idea of the Sindian Party is conveyed in the 4th paragraph of my address of the 25th ultimo. As to the head Doulut Rou with an imperious bent of mind and activity of body he displays but little of either greatness or goodness, and is said to have been of late addicted to debaucheries which have already in some degree affected his constitution. It is also affirmed, that the encouragement which has been given to Gujaba Gujer* to come hither, was extorted from Doulut Rou by interested persons while immersed in voluptuousness, without consulting any of his more respectable ministers; and I understand that he has since repented of his conduct on that occasion, and dissuaded Gujaba Gujer from proceeding to this quarter without the sanction of his uncle Ragojee Bhonsla. I have a confirmation of the intelligence mentioned in my last of Gujaba Gujer having left Naugpore on the 18th ultimo, with 3,000 troops, who have been since joined by 1,000 more, ostensibly discharged by Ragojee Bhonsla in disgust at their clamour for arrears. There is however, an idea here, that the affair of Gujaba Gujer is a feint for the purpose of collecting troops to act in concert with the Court of Hyderabad and Nana against the Sindian

* Gujaba Gujer, a prominent official of Nagpur.

Party, which is somewhat corroborated by the demur in the remittance to Doulut Rou of thirteen lacs of rupees collected lately for that purpose at Hyderabad; this demur may, however, perhaps be ascribable in some degree to the hopes latterly entertained by the Court of Hyderabad of a closer connexion with us, which they would be but too likely to convert to their own interested purposes in breach of their engagements with the Mahrattahs.

No person of consequence in this quarter has yet paid a visit of condolence to Kassi Rou Holkar on the death of his wife which occurred here a few days ago.

I am given to understand that some political negotiation is on foot between the Poona Durbar and Doulut Rou Sindia through Colonel Catielho Filose.

I have intelligence that on the 20th ultimo Wittul Pundit was dispatched from Naugpore by Ragojee Bhonsla, toward Gurra Mundela with about 10,000 men and twelve guns, and that on the 23rd Eswunt Rou Holkar was within seven coss of Naugpore with about 200 horse and one hundred foot and fifteen camels, that it was expected he would have a meeting with the Raja the ensuing day and be employed with Wittul Pundit on the Gurra Mundela expedition.

No. 49—Uththoff reports negotiations going on in Poona between Sindia's European officers and Nana and Amritrao, preparatory to some scheme extorting large amounts from Nana.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 8th December 1797.

On the 4th instant Colonel Catielho Filose, accompanied by Bannajee Huzra and Jadoo Rou Bhasker, two of the Sindian ministry, proceeded on a deputation from Doulut Rou to Emrut Rou, with whom they had a private audience, at which were present Govin Kishen, Govin Pingleh, Abba Selokur, Trimbuck Rou Purchora, Ballajee Koonjer and Wittul Pundit. From Emrut Rou's, the deputation proceeded to the house of Nana Furnavees, with whom they had a private audience, at which Dada Gujra, Abba Selokur, Bapoo Selokur and Wittul Pundit were present. Dada Gujra had met the deputation soon after their entering the town for the purpose of paying the compliment of the Istuckbaul to Colonel Filose, to whom Nana made a complimentary present of jewels and cloths.

These interviews are generally supposed to be in prosecution of the political negotiations mentioned in the 6th paragraph of my last address,

on which subject the following intelligence has reached me through private channels for the authenticity of which, however, I cannot pretend to vouch.

That Nana and Emrut Rou finding from experience that no confidence was to be placed in engagements entered into with the Sindian chiefship through any of the ministers, had suggested the introduction of Colonel Filose into the negotiation in question, in whom as an European they had more confidence. It is certain that Colonel Filose had some private audiences of Doulut Rou previous to the meeting with Emrut Rou and Nana on the 4th instant; and the Colonel's introduction into the negotiations in question may possibly have been at the suggestion of Doulut Rou. For some time past I have heard that an intrigue was on foot between the Poona and Sindian Durbars in which Colonel Filose was engaged, but as it was coupled with an account of Bhaskar Josey, a vagabond from Bombay being a conspicuous character therein and with a ridiculous rumour of Colonel Filose having considerable influence at Bombay, I was inclined to think that the affair would not become of any consequence.

I also hear that Colonel Filose has assured Emrut Rou and Nana that on the payment to Doulut Rou of the assignments that have been granted to him by the Peshwa, the Nizam, Kassi Rou Holkar and Govind Rou Guykewar to the amount of about sixty or seventy lacks of rupees, he (Doulut Rou) would proceed to Hindoostan leaving Nana in perfect security in Poona. To which I understand that Nana replied to the following purport. That as to security for his honor and property it was a matter of course; but that it was incumbent to make such arrangements for the future conduct both of Doulut Rou and himself as to establish Bajy Rou in his full authority as head of the State and to ensure its general welfare.

I am also given to understand that it was in agitation to introduce into the negotiation in question Major Dugeon, who was left in the command of the Brigade here by Colonel Perron.

Possibly on Nana and Emrut Rou proposing the Company's mediation to effect a reconciliation and general settlement of affairs, Doulut Rou may have suggested the introduction of some of the principal Europeans in his service, to which they may have been induced to accede on the principle, that if they could, through Messieurs Filose and Dugeon, (who command the major part of Sindia's Infantry in which consists his chief strength) extort an engagement from Doulut Rou to proceed to Hindoostan, it would be likely to be adhered to. Jealousy and ill-will have ever subsisted between Mr. Filose and Messieurs DuBoigne, Perron and Dugeon which will probably be fomented by the affair in question, and notwithstanding that Colonel Filose, though altogether illiterate, is a man of prudent conduct and conciliation, he will be likely I apprehend, to

be involved in considerable embarrassment in the affair in question, for while he cannot place implicit confidence either in Doulut Rou or his ministers, numberless intrigues will probably be introduced and further obstacles may be involved by his own vanity and avarice; additional embarrassments may be expected from the want of confidence among Emrut Rou, Nana and Colonel Filose.

Sindia's guards continue posted at the Peshwa's Palace in town.

On the 7th instant there was a private interview between Emrut Rou and Nana Furnavees at a garden in this neighbourhood; and I understand that Doulut Rou Sindia has deputed Colonel Filose to wait on Nana again the 8th instant

Doulut Rou Sindia is, I understand, making new levies in this quarter and has summoned two battalions from Hindoostan, the object of which I am at present at a loss to account for, unless it may be to operate upon the apprehensions of Nana, the Nizam and Ragojee Bhonsla, or to counteract any designs which that confederacy may have in agitation against him. His force now in this quarter is greatly superior to that of all the other chiefs combined and his principal present embarrassments seem to proceed chiefly from the difficulty of paying his troops here, while in Hindoostan their allowances are less than in the Deccan and they contrive to subsist themselves by the plunder of the country and contributions, without requiring so much ready cash from the Sindian Party as if employed in the Deccan

No. 50—Uthhoff writes to the Governor General communicating to him details of secret meetings and intrigues going on in Poona for securing the departure of Daulatrao from the Deccan. Mr. Boyd had left for Bombay, adds the writer.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 11th December 1797.

My latest intelligence from Naugpore of twelve days, intimates that Gujaba Gujar was then near Omrouty about sixty coss to the south-westward of Naugpore, with 3,000 horse and foot and eight elephants, and that Wittul Pundit was then, with his army, about eight coss from Naugpore toward Gurra Mundela. There was a rumour at Naugpore that some of the Sindian troops in Hindoostan were advancing towards Gurra Mundela, but it does not seem entitled to implicit credit

On the 9th instant a private conference was held at the house of Nana Furnavees, at which the following persons were present, Nana, Govin Kishen, Dada Gujra, Abba Selokur, Bapoo Selokur, Bannajee Huzra,

Jaddoo Rou Bhaskar, Wittul Pundit, Colonel Catielho Filose and the Colonel's principal native agent Hursook Lall.

I am informed through private channels that Doulut Rou Sindia in consideration of the payment of the money mentioned in the 4th paragraph of my last address, acquiesces in proceeding to Hindoostan after the Hindoo festival of Hooly in March next; observing that his presence here is in the interim requisite at the celebration of the wedding of the son of Ballabyhe, widow of Larojee Deysmookh, and daughter of the late Mhadjee Sindia. Nana is said to consider the period in question as too distant and to entertain great doubts of Doulut Rou's proceeding to Hindoostan, even in the event of all the concessions he requires being actually made to him, in which Doulut Rou is thought to be secretly supported by Bajy Rou. These doubts and embarrassments are said to have been canvassed at the meeting which took place between Emrut Rou and Nana on the 7th instant mentioned in the 8th paragraph of my last address. Considerable jealousy is said to have been excited in the Sindian Party against Colonel Filose, in whom however, it does not appear that Doulut Rou places implicit confidence, nor that he has invested him with very extensive powers. On the whole, the prospect of a happy and permanent settlement of affairs here seems as faint and distant as ever.

On the 10th instant, Mr. Boyd proceeded to Bombay, having been employed since the 2nd ultimo in the settlement of his affairs here, in the course of which nothing occurred of a nature sufficiently important to be worthy your notice. He lived at this Residency and made occasional excursions into Poona and its environs, without meeting with any kind of molestation. It is at present his intention to return to his native country under the Government of the United States of America.

No. 51—Uththoff reports the answer he gave to Baburao Angria that the British Government would preserve their traditional friendship towards all parties and strictly observe existing agreements.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,
TO—BABURAO ANGRIA.

Poona., 14th December 1797.

I have already acquainted you, that it was a principle with the Company to act towards all states, parties and individuals, agreeably to engagements, friendship and equity, and to convince you of our goodwill towards you, and your principal, Daulatrao Sindia, and of our not entertaining any undue partiality towards the present occupants of Colaba, I have furnished you with a letter to the Governor of Bombay in prevention of all

impediments to the free intercourse between your people and those of Bombay, warranted by existing regulations. I did hope that this supererogatory act of goodwill towards you would have put an amicable termination to the awkward and delicate discussions between us, respecting your present designs on Colaba. You now, however, require that as your troops are advancing to the siege of Colaba, all intercourse may be stopped between the present occupants of Colaba and the people of Bombay. In reply to which, I have to observe to you that the conduct of the Company towards you will, at all times, and on all occasions, be conformable to engagements, friendship, and equity, but I beg to submit to you, that, if in the prosecution thereof the Company were to sacrifice what is due on these grounds to the Peshwa as the head of the Empire, and to the present occupants of Colaba, what confidence could you place in their assurances of goodwill, or in their future conduct towards you. It is, therefore, desirable both to you and to the Company that the sentiments of the Peshwa, as head of the Empire, should be signified to me on the subject of stopping all intercourse between Bombay and Colaba, after your troops shall have arrived in that neighbourhood. The situation which I have now the honour to fill as the representative of the Governor General with the Peshwa, renders it peculiarly incumbent on me to show all possible respect towards the Peshwa, while under present circumstances, to stop the accustomed intercourse between Bombay and Colaba, which is one of his dependencies, without his sanction or even knowledge seems very exceptionable. For your satisfaction I take this opportunity of repeating to you that the present occupants of Colaba will not be furnished with men or military stores from Bombay, and that in the preservation of the intercourse which now subsists between Bombay and Colaba, on the same footing as it has for many years subsisted, to the mutual advantage of both places, the Company have not any interested or insidious objects in view, being merely desirous to avoid giving offence to any party by a conduct founded on the strictest principles of adherence to engagements, friendship and equity, which can alone entitle them to the confidence of all or any states, parties or individuals. You may be assured, that the conduct of the Bombay Government in respect to the intercourse between that place and Colaba will be of such a nature as not to give you any offence, and to avoid subjecting the persons or property of their subjects to any molestation from your people.

As a further proof of the goodwill of the Company towards you and your principal, Daulatrao Sindia, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that the Bombay Government acquiesce in your request to entertain in your service people who come to that place from Jafferabad and other parts, on condition that you do not tamper with, nor enlist any of their European or native soldiers or any other persons in their service, and that all just claims, which any of the subjects of Bombay may have against any of the people whom you may enlist, shall be settled agreeably to equity :

provided, that in return, a similar permission be granted to the Company to enlist in the Maratha Country.

No. 52—Uthoff reports the affair of the Maratha Chauthias of Surat and requests that the troublesome situation should be remedied.

Bombay Castle, 19th December 1797.

At a Council—

Read the following letter and enclosures from the Acting Resident at Poona.

Dated 15th December 1797 :

Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Morris's two letters of the 5th instant, and one of the 8th, and to enclose for your information, extract of my address of this date to the Governor General, which seems to comprise a sufficient answer to the former.

In respect to the affairs at Surat, in which the Peshwa's Choutea is involved, as contained in your Secretary's letters of the 22nd ultimo and 8th instant with their several enclosures, it seems unnecessary at present to agitate the subject of the disputes between Colonel Reynolds's people and the chouteas, since nothing relative thereto has yet passed between the Darbar and this Residency, while the Nawab and the Chief think the matter had better be buried in oblivion, as it has ceased to disturb the tranquillity of the city, and some satisfaction has been made to us by the choutea's apologizing for the conduct of his people in the affair in question.

Whenever the Darbar may require an answer to their representation to me, enclosed in my address to you of the 8th September last, I shall be prepared to furnish them with the explanations contained in the letter from the Nawab of Surat to the Chief, enclosed in your Secretary's letter of the 14th ultimo.

With respect to the complaints of the general misconduct of the Choutea at Surat, as no specific charges are adduced, the most eligible mode will perhaps, be to avail myself of every favourable opportunity that may occur to urge in the most impressive manner to this Darbar to enjoin their Choutea to conduct himself at Surat on all occasions agreeably to engagements, friendship, and equity. Representations on this subject more in detail would be but too likely to involve endless discussions, and to bring forward and foment those numberless differences and animosities inseparable from the involution of the interests of the Company, Nawab, and the Marathas, in the mixed government of the city of Surat, which it is desirable to us should remain dormant unless they can be effectually remedied by the removal of one or both of the Chouteas from Surat.

No. 53—Uthhoff reports the dispute of the Angria claimants to Kolaba and mentions Colonel Palmer having left Kalpi on 19th November 1797 on his journey to Poona.

FROM—MR. JOSHUA UHTHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

Poona, 15th December 1797.

Continuing to receive frequent applications from Baburao Angria, through Ganpatrao, Colonel Palmer's Agent at the Sindian Darbar, for a letter to the Governor of Bombay soliciting the discontinuance of all intercourse between Bombay and Colaba, on account of the advance of his (Baburao's) troops to the siege of the latter place, with an intimation that should such intercourse subsist after the blockade of Colaba, the people engaged therein will be unavoidably subjected to considerable risk, if not molestation, in their persons and property, I have the honour to enclose translation of my answer on the subject to Baburao, which I delivered, through Ganpatrao on the 14th instant.

The law of nations may, perhaps, provide against any intercourse between Bombay and Colaba, in the event of the latter place being actually blockaded, and indeed the subjects of Bombay on principles of security to their own persons and property will, in such case, be likely of their own accord to avoid such intercourse. It seems at the same time desirable for the preservation of our credit and interests that we should maintain the accustomed uninterrupted intercourse between Bombay and Colaba, as long as we can with propriety and security. By too ready an acquiescence in the requisitions of Baburao, we, without any advantage to ourselves, only encourage him to bring forward further requisitions, and he would probably make an insidious use of our acquiescence in his application for the eventual stoppage of intercourse between Bombay and Colaba, which might be converted or perverted into a dangerous precedent. While it is rather desirable to us that the Sindian influence in the person of Baburao should not be established at Colaba, it is also proper to advert to the circumstance that Baburao is not disposed to make any remuneration for the supererogatory acts of our goodwill, which acts of goodwill may operate to our prejudice with the Peshwa, Nana Furnavees, and the present occupants of Colaba; and though the conduct of the latter towards us has been in many instances very exceptionable, it would probably become still more detrimental to us, were we to show a predilection for the cause of Baburao to their prejudice, and it is not at present by any means evident which party will gain the ascendancy and establish themselves permanently in Colaba to the exclusion of the other. Probably the Colaba principality will be divided between them, in which case also the most scrupulous neutrality on our part will prove to be the most eligible line of conduct that we could have adopted.

Since writing the above, an intimation has been conveyed to me, by a person pretending to be the agent of Jaising Angria, expressing a wish to have an interview with me and earnestly soliciting the Company's support against the designs of Baburao on Colaba, with an offer of an ample compensation for such support. I have desired it to be signified to him in reply that the affair in question being awkward and delicate, and having reference to several chiefs in this quarter, a personal interview with him appeared exceptionable; but that [I] should be ready to receive any propositions that he might have to submit to me through the same channel by which he had introduced his first message; contrasting at the same time the present conduct of Jaising in requiring our aid and indulgence with his former conduct towards us, in violation of engagements, friendship and equity.

On the 12th instant I received a letter from Colonel Palmer, dated, camp near Kalpy, 19th ultimo advising me of his having left Fateghur on the 11th and intending to prosecute his journey to Poona, by the way of Bilsa, Bopaul, Hundia ghaut, and Burhaunpore.

No. 54—Uthhoff reports a request made to him by Nana for guaranteeing the engagements effected by him with Colonel Filose about the departure of Daulatrao to the North.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL,
FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 22nd December 1797.

Frequent intercourse has taken place since my last address, between the confidants of Doulut Rou Sindia and Nana Furnavees, and written engagements are said to have passed between their principals, the main object of which is thought to be Doulut Rou's proceeding to Hindoostan, on certain payments being made to him by Nana, but that the former urges that his presence in this quarter is requisite some time longer, for the celebration of some marriages in his family, to which the latter objects. A good understanding is thought to subsist between Nana and Emrut Rou, but they are said to be without confidence in the Sindian Party, while Colonel Filose observes that he will endeavour to keep the latter to their engagements by exhortations; but that being a servant of Doulut Rou he cannot proceed to a greater extremity than resigning his service in the event of his deviating from his engagements; and Bannajee Huzra who though Doulut Rou's nominal Prime Minister, is supposed to be in Nana's interests, is said to have intimated to Nana that the written engagements which had passed were not to be depended upon.

Gopaul Rou Munshy having expressed a wish to see Meer Fukuruddin the Munshy of this Residency on business, a meeting accordingly took place on the 20th instant, when the former made the following communication, on the part of Nana, for my notice, that he (Nana) had formerly communicated to me the difficulties which he experienced in a settlement with Doulut Rou Sindia, principally from the absence of confidence in that chief and his Ministers founded on their having evaded compliance with their part of the engagements, although he (Nana) had done everything that was incumbent on him not only toward Doulut Rou but also toward the Nizam and Ragojee Bhonsla. That under this embarrassment he had wished to avail himself of the Company's mediatory good offices the introduction of which, however, he had been unable to obtain in the manner that seemed to him most advisable. That he had therefore from his experience that no confidence could be placed in engagements made through the mediation of the natives of the Sindian Party, had recourse subsequently to Colonel Filose in whom, as an European, he had more confidence, and that through Colonel Filose written engagements had been entered into between him (Nana) and Doulut Rou, that he (Nana) had perfect confidence in the rectitude of the Company and also in their goodwill toward him, which induced him to make this communication to me with a request, founded on the intercourse which, he knew, subsisted between Colonel Filose and me and which had been so successfully exercised in the late settlement of Mr. Boyd's affairs, that I would ascertain from the Colonel for his (Nana's) satisfaction whether or not confidence might be placed in the engagements in question on the part of Doulut Rou, adding that he (Nana) was willing, through me, to give every possible satisfaction to Doulut Rou for the faithful performance on his (Nana's) part of the engagements in question. The Munshy enquired of Gopaul Rou the nature of the engagements alluded to, for an explanation of which the latter said he would apply to Nana if I required it. I have the honor to enclose the answer that I purpose giving to Nana's above mentioned message.

My latest intelligence from Naugpore intimates, that on the 8th instant Ragojee Bhonsla entered his tents in that neighbourhood the object of which, I have not been able to ascertain, but conjecture furnishes the following. A religious excursion to Chanda, which for some time past is said to have been in agitation; the expedition against Gurra Mundela, though, indeed, it is rumoured that Wittul Pundit's destination to that quarter has been countermanded; a meeting with Azimul-Omrah which has occasionally been talked of, a movement in concert with the Court of Hyderabad and Nana against the Sindian party. The state of parties warrants this latter conjecture, which is somewhat corroborated by intelligence that has reached me, through two different channels, of its being the intention of the Court of Hyderabad to assemble a force in the

Dharore quarter. I cannot, at present, pretend to say which of these conjectures is the best founded.

* * * * *

On the 21st instant, Eswunt Rou Dabbarree was invested by the Peshwa, with the usual formalities, with the title of Seynaputtee, which had been for many years hereditary in his family, one of the principal in the Mahratta Empire and formerly the masters of the Guykewar family, but of late much reduced. Eswunt Rou some time ago was constrained to give his daughter in marriage to the son of Ballabyhe, daughter of the late Mhadjee Sindia, and widow of Larrojee Deysmookh. The honor now conferred on Eswunt Rou by the Peshwa is concluded to be at the instance of Doulut Rou Sindia in consideration of his condescension in the affair of the marriage, the family of Dabbarree being held in much higher estimation, both as to caste and rank in the state, than the family of Sindia, the late Patell having been the son of a slave woman.

No. 55—Uthhoff returned to Nana a courteous reply declining to interfere with Col. Filose on the latter's observance of his engagements.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL,
FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 25th December 1797.

On the 22nd instant Meer Fukkeruddeen, the Munshy of this Residency, delivered to Gopaul Rou my answer to the message from Nana received by him as mentioned in my last address, when Gopaul Rou expressing a wish to communicate it immediately to Nana and return with Nana's sentiments thereon to Meer Fukkeruddeen, the latter acquiesced, and Gopaul Rou with but little delay again met Fukkeruddeen and delivered to him the following message from Nana, for my notice, in reply to mine.

That he was perfectly satisfied with the friendly tenor of my message and was sensible that the occasion in question was not a fit one for the introduction of the weight and dignified mediation of the Company, but that he wished to avail himself, not of my official but of my personal good offices on the occasion to ascertain from Colonel Filose, for his (Nana's) satisfaction, whether or not confidence was to be placed in the written engagements that had passed through the Colonel between him (Nana) and Doulut Rou, and that he considered my twelve years' residence among the Mahrattas as having established a personal as well as official connexion between us, which entitled him to my good offices; a sentiment he observed which had influenced many parts of his conduct toward me beyond the formal line of official intercourse, of which he had a new instance to evince, in soliciting my sentiments as to his retirement from public business, which amidst the distractions in which the affairs of the Mahratta

Empire were unhappily involved was a favourite object with him, since he could perceive no flattering prospect of effecting a happy and permanent general reconciliation and settlement. He added, that Doulut Rou Sindia had, through Colonel Filose, given him the fullest assurances of perfect security of person and property, that he should be reinstated in the enjoyment of the authority and influence that he formerly possessed in the state, and that the engagements which had passed between them while he (Nana) was at Mhar should be punctually executed

The following is the answer that I purpose giving to the above message, that I am extremely sensible of his (Nana's) goodwill toward me both officially and personally, and that it would afford me much satisfaction to have an opportunity of evincing my sense thereof on the present or any other occasion, but that I really did not feel authorized to make any application on the subject in question, official or personal, to Colonel Filose which might at least subject me to a slighting reply from him and at the same time operate to his (Nana's) prejudice, both with Doulut Rou and Colonel Filose, as being construed by them into a want of confidence in them, notwithstanding their solemn assurances and engagements. That should any communication be made to me on the subject by Doulut Rou Sindia or Colonel Filose, my conduct on the occasion would as far as propriety admitted, be such as to promote his (Nana's) wishes. That on the subject of his retirement it was certainly desirable to us that he through whom a good understanding had been established for so many years between the Company and the Mahrattas to their mutual benefit, should continue to possess a controlling influence in the state, but that in the event of his deeming it expedient to retire from public business I had the satisfaction to convey to him the assurances of you, Hon'ble Sir, that with the acquiescence of the Peshwa he might depend on an honourable reception and retirement at Benares, of which he had so often expressed his wish

Sindia's troops, attached to Baboo Rou Angria, have taken the town of Ally Baug near Colaba by assault, and it is expected they will gain further advantages over Jey Sing's party.

No. 56.—Daulatrao Sindia informs Uthtoff of the capture of Kolaba by his troops

FROM—DAULATRAO SINDIA,
TO—J UHTHOFF.

Received, 25th December 1797.

After compliments,

A friendly address of Sir Charles Warre Malet, Bart, for the purpose of stopping the supplies of provisions to the traitor Jeisingrao in the fort of Colaba and for the purpose of permission for supplies being furnished

to my troops, who are employed on that service, has in consequence of the union of the states (the Company and Daulatrao Sindia) been sent to that friend (Mr. Uthhoff). It is agreeable to friendship that the letter in question should be transmitted to that gentleman, and that in this affair whatever is incumbent on and consistent with amity should be fully represented by that friend (Mr. Uthhoff) to the gentleman above mentioned (Sir Charles Malet). For your information I have communicated the above. What more need be written?

Since writing the above, intelligence is arrived that on Thursday last the battalions of this state (Daulatrao Sindia) captured by assault Ali Bag and the town of Colaba; and the traitor Jeisinh fled to the fortress of Hirakot where he is blockaded; this is written for your information.

No. 57—Uthhoff informs the G. G. of a complaint from the Raja of Kolhapur about one of his vessels having been captured by the British.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 25th December 1797.

I have not received any communication from Baburao Angria since my last message to him of the 14th instant, but am given to understand through private channels that Daulatrao Sindia has prevailed upon the Peshwa to write a letter to the Governor of Bombay, in prevention of all intercourse between the present occupants of Colaba during the operation of Baburao Angria against the latter place.

On the 24th instant, I received a message from Bhau Bukshy that the vakeel of the Raja of Kolhapoor (the chief of the Malwans) had represented to Daulatrao Sindia, that one of his master's vessels had been lately captured and detained by the English; and that Daulatrao in consequence requested that I would write to the Governor of Bombay to obtain release of the vessel. I waived giving any answer till I might hear from Bombay on the subject and I also refrain from troubling you with any communication thereon.

No. 58—Uthhoff warns Captain Price against giving credence to information sent him by interested parties.

FROM—MR. UTHHOFF,
TO—CAPTAIN PRICE.

Poona, 27th December 1797.

The representation made to you on the part of the present occupants of Colaba, as mentioned in your letter of the 23rd, is a strong instance

of the reservation with which we should receive intelligence through interested native channels, the insidiousness of which is however in the present instance somewhat palliated on the principle of necessity under the pressure of imminent danger from Baboorao Angriah, of which it appears to me to convey a strong symptom. No communication whatever has been conveyed to me either by the Peshwa or Nana Furnavees on the subject of the existing differences between Baboorao and the present occupants of Colabah, although I have reason to think that the Brahmins in general, and the two above mentioned personages in particular, are very much dissatisfied with Baboorao's conduct on the occasion, supported as it is by the Sindian party. Had any communication been made to me on the subject by any of the parties here, it would of course have been immediately imparted to the Bombay Government.

No. 59—Uthhoff in a message to Amrutrao suggested a cessation of hostilities at Kolaba, referring the settlement of the dispute to impartial arbiters.

Translation of Mr. Joshua Uthhoff's answer to Emrutrao's message of the 29th December.

That agreeably to his desire I had attentively considered his message, that we lamented the existence of differences among our friends, the members of the Maratha Empire, to compose which our good offices were at their service whenever the parties concerned might wish to avail themselves thereof, but that it was to be lamented that his present representation to me had been delayed till affairs had proceeded to the extremity of hostilities between Baburao Angriah and the present occupants of Colaba, fearing under existing circumstances that it was almost too late to apply an effectual remedy, that Jaising and the present occupants of Colaba had acted towards us in many instances in violation of engagements, friendship and equity, but that considering their present distress, we on principles of humanity should not allow their former exceptionable conduct to operate as an insurmountable obstacle to our relieving them, as far as we could with propriety, particularly as he (Emrutrao) had solicited our good offices on the occasion, which I concluded, was with the knowledge of the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees, that I begged to know if he had any mode to suggest for the introduction and prosecution of the desired accommodation,—what might be the grounds of difference between Baburao and Jaising, and what might be their objects. Was the infant son of the late Ragojee Angriah formally invested by the Peshwa in the chiefship of Colaba? Was the regency under the infant chief the main object of contention? Could the difference be accommodated by dividing the chiefship or the regency of the chiefship between Jaising and Baburao?

What was the state of the defence which Jaising and the present occupants of Colaba could make against Baburao? Would he (Emrutrao) suggest to Daulatrao Sindia or Baburao a cessation of arms, and a reference of the differences in question, either to the mediation of certain persons in this quarter, or of Sir Charles Warre Malet Bart., now in charge of the Government of Bombay, with whose talents and rectitude all parties here were so well acquainted from his eleven years' residence at this Court? That much negotiation had passed between Daulatrao Sindia, Baburao and this Residency on the subject in question, in the course of which my conduct had been regulated by a due regard to engagements, friendship and equity towards all parties and particular respect towards the Peshwa as the head of the Maratha Empire, and with whom I was now immediately connected by my official situation. That if he (Emrutrao) particularly wished it, I would avail myself of what had been heretofore passed between us on the subject to submit to Daulatrao, or Baburao, or both, the advisableness of a cessation of arms, and an accommodation of differences between Baburao and the present occupants of Colaba.

No. 60—Daulatrao Sindia requests Sir Charles Malet to prevent supplies being sent to Jaising Rao Angria from Bombay.

Translation of a letter from Daulatrao Sindia, to Sir Charles Malet Bart., &ca &ca.

Received, 29th December 1797.

The traitorous slave Jaising Rao Angria having through the viciousness of his disposition set himself up in rebellion and disturbance against the respectable and dignified Baboo Rao, who is of near kindred with me, I have in compliance with the requisition of the said Rao detached against the above mentioned rebel two or three battalions, with a proportion of guns and of the Sarkar cavalry, which detachment after arrival in the neighbourhood, has surrounded the fort of Colaba, the said Jaisingrao having also shut himself up in that place. It becomes necessary to cut off his communication, and I have accordingly to request in the spirit of friendship and in consideration of the union of our Sarkars, that as is consistent with the said unity no description of grain, or other articles that the above mentioned traitor may require, shall be sent him from Bombay, on which head the strictest injunctions should be issued; and in consistence with the same unity of interests, it is further requested that the commanders of the said battalions shall be allowed to bring away without impediment from Bombay whatever they may fairly purchase for their supply. In the meantime whatever compliance shall be accorded to this request will be in its place, and worthy of the system of sincere friendship.

No. 61—Uthoff reports the great distress of the Sindian party and Nana's apprehensions of their proceeding to extremities against him.

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART., GOVERNOR GENERAL,
FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 29th December 1797.

On the 27th instant Doulut Rou Sindia paid a visit to Nana Furnavees when a private consultation took place, at which were present, besides those two personages, Abba Selokur, Dada Gujra, Bannajee Huzra, Jadoo Rou Bhasker and Colonel Catielho Filose

Within these few days four or five Bramins have been seized in Poona, by order of Nana, on suspicion of being concerned in some measures to his prejudice at the instigation of either Moroba Furnavees or the Sindian Party

Some dissensions have arisen between Kassi Rou Holkar and his cousin Bapoo, the former wishing to retain the old ministers and officers of his late father Tukojee, and the latter being desirous of introducing new ones more immediately dependent on himself. The Sindian Party have great influence in these dissensions and show a disposition to support those who are likely to pay the most for their countenance

On the 28th instant Colonel Catielho Filose made the following communication to me through a third person (a native) That at the meeting of the preceding day between Nana Furnavees and Doulut Rou Sindia professions of reconciliation and general settlement had taken place through his (the Colonel's) mediation, and that the former had given security for the immediate payment of ten laks of rupees, and that the balance of about fifty-five laks was to be paid on Doulut Rou's arrival at Jamgaum and Burhaunpoor on his march to Hindustan That Nana was to pay a visit to Doulut Rou in a day or two, and that shortly after they were both to wait upon the Peshwa at the palace in town when a general reconciliation and settlement were to take place The Colonel did not, however, scruple to intimate that there were still some doubts as to Doulut Rou's proceeding to Hindustan and that the reconciliation and settlement could not be implicitly depended upon as cordial and permanent

The general tenor of the above communication is corroborated through many other channels with the addition, that many symptoms of mutual distrust and apprehension between Doulut Rou and Nana had occurred, the former having proposed a garden in this neighbourhood as the place of meeting, to which the latter objected; and on Doulut Rou's assenting to meet Nana at his own house he insisted on the absence of all the Arabs of whom Nana's guards are chiefly composed

The great distress of the Sindian Party for money and Nana's apprehensions of their proceeding to extremities against him are supposed to have had considerable influence in the above measures, Colonel Filose's conduct in which is said to have subjected him to the jealousy and ill-will of the Sindian Ministry in general.

Meer Fukkruddeen, the Munshy of this Residency, is to wait on Emrut Rou this day by invitation.

I have just received, by the way of Bancot, from Mr. Goethal a letter dated Goa 20th instant, advising the particulars of the disturbances in Tippoo's country between Bednore and Carwar; and that the French vessel, which has been so long lying at Mangalore, is now cruising between that place and Batecola, commanded by M. Ripand, who was lately at Syreengputtum. Copy of Mr. Goethal's letter shall be forwarded by next post.

The best intelligence that I have been able to collect respecting Colaba is, that from the period of the capture of Ally Baugh and the town of Colaba till yesterday, nothing very material had occurred there.

No. 62—The Governor of Bombay is informed by the Resident of the seizure and confinement of Nana Fadnis by Sindia:

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE JONATHAN DUNCAN, PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

Poona, 31st December 1797.

Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you that Nana Furnavees, being this afternoon on a visit to Dowlut Rao Scindia, has been seized and detained in his camp, and Dada Gujra, Abba Selokur and Bujaba Serolekur are said to be confined with him.

No. 63—Daulatrao Sindia informs Uthoff of his having confined Nana Fadnis.

FROM—DAULATRAO SINDIA,

TO—MR. JOSHUA UTHOFF, RECEIVED THROUH GANPATRAO.

Poona, 1st January 1798.

After compliments,

Nana Furnavees, following the bent of his own inclination, contrary to the wishes of Sreemunt Behadur (the Peshwa Bajirao) and acting improperly and in opposition, has caused great dissatisfaction to

His Highness, in consequence of which the said Nana has, agreeably to the order of Sreemant, been seized and confined. Considering the union of the states (the Company and the Marathas) and that there is not any difference between them this is communicated for your information, and a letter, to the same purport, addressed to Sir Charles Warre Malet, Bart, has been written, and is sent to that friend (Mr Uththoff) which it is requested may be transmitted to Bombay without delay.

No. 64—Uththoff forwards a detailed report of Nana Fadnis's visit to Daulatrao Sindia and his treacherous arrest effected by Col. Filose, one of Sindia's Commandants, on 31st December 1797.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 1st January 1798.

I was yesterday preparing a full representation to you in my address on the subject of the differences between Baboo Rou Angria and the present occupants of Colaba, to be transmitted by this post; but the seizure of Nana Furnavees yesterday afternoon by Doulut Rou Sindia induced me to desist, and I have since been employed in endeavouring, amidst the confusions in this quarter, to collect for your information some authentic intelligence on the latter momentous subject.

You will have collected, Hon'ble Sir, from the 9th and 10th paragraphs of my address of the 29th ultimo, that there was reason to expect that in a few days Nana Furnavees would pay a visit to Doulut Rou Sindia in return for his of the 27th. This was on various pretences put off till the 31st, on the morning of which day, Nana again sent an excuse which he at length waived in consequence, it is said, of writings of reassurance from Doulut Rou Sindia and Colonel Catielho Filose. Accordingly in the afternoon he proceeded with between one and two thousand attendants to the camp of Doulut Rou Sindia, who received him in the usual respectful manner at the entrance of his place of residence and after being seated for some time, they removed to another apartment for the purpose, as was pretended, of private consultation, when the following persons were present Doulut Rou Sindia and, on his part, Colonel Filose, Bannajee Huzra, Bikram Cheyla, Fukkeerjee Gaurweh, and Meer Assud Ally, Nana Furnavees, and on his part, Dada Gujra, Abba Selokur, Bujaba Serolekur, Rago Punt Gorebola, Sunker Josey and the brother of Doondo Pundit of Loghur. Shortly after Doulut Rou on some pretence withdrew, when Colonel Filose's infantry surrounded the place of meeting and about twenty of Doulut Rou's people rushed into the apartment in which Nana was, and securing him and his adherents,

stripped them, it is said, not only of all their jewels but even of most of their clothes. Sindia's troops then began a general attack on Nana's attendants who were presently, without making scarcely any defence, plundered, killed, wounded, or dispersed. Large bodies of Sindia's troops were immediately sent into Poona, and plundered almost every person who came in their way. A few houses also have been plundered. Several of the Arabs in Nana's service got possession of some houses in town, from which they have occasionally kept up an irregular fire on Sindia's troops to the present period.

All accounts agree that Colonel Filose, of whose mediatory negotiations between Nana and Doulut Rou for these three weeks past you have been fully advised, has had the chief management of this affair, which is affirmed, but I cannot yet pretend to say with what truth to have been conducted with the assent of Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou; and Govin Kishen and Govin Pingleh also are said to have been engaged therein.

Two or three small tents have been pitched this morning in Doulut Rou Sindia's camp for the accommodation of Nana Furnavees apart from his adherents, who were seized with him and who are also still in confinement.

I understand that Doulut Rou Sindia last night dispatched instructions in various directions for securing the persons and property of Nana's adherents.

I have already through four different channels endeavoured to convey to you intelligence of Nana's seizure, but am not without apprehensions that some, if not all, of them may miscarry, so numerous have been the guards in all quarters in this neighbourhood and so strict have they been in stopping persons of all descriptions.

Ever since the seizure of Baloo Tantea, the prime minister of Doulut Rou Sindia, in October 1796, his associate Sadasev Malhar (Bhou Bukshy) though residing in Doulut Rou's camp, has been much out of favour with his master, who within these three or four days has placed a guard over him with a requisition of seven laks of rupees.

Since writing the above I have received from Gunput Rou, Colonel Palmer's agent at the Sindian Durbar, letters to the address of Sir Charles Malet and myself from Doulut Rou, who delivered them in person to Gunput Rou. Translation of the letter to me is enclosed.

I understand that Appa Bulwunt, Baba Furkia, Govin Kishen, Govin Pingleh and Mhadoo Rou Ramchunder repaired last night to the Peshwa's palace in town, where they still continue; and that Doulut Rou has entrusted to Mr. Drugeon who commands Colonel Perron's brigade here, to make a settlement with the Arabs who are in arms in town.

P.S.—10 p.m. I find that my letters, mentioned in the 6th paragraph, were stopped and detained by Sindia's people, without being opened till

this afternoon, when on ascertaining their being mine they were immediately permitted to proceed.

I learn that Baboo Rou's party have got possession of the Fort of Heeraghur and that the present occupants of Colaba are reduced to a very low ebb.

No. 65—Uthoff reports the mediation sought by Amratrao in settling the dispute of succession to the chiefship of Kolaba. The Resident discusses the advantages and disadvantages of British mediation.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON^{BLE} SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 1st January 1798.

As mentioned in my last address Meer Fukeeruddeen Husein, the Munshy of this Residency, paid a visit on the 29th ultimo by invitation to Emrut Rou, who was accompanied by Dada Gujra, the Ser Subadar of the Kokun, Gangadharpant Bhanu, a relation and confidant of Nana Furnavees. After some general conversation Dada Gujra introduced the topic of Colaba by observing that it was an ancient chiefship that had for many years maintained a close connexion with the English, and that of the distress in which it was at present involved, we could not be indifferent spectators. Emrut Rou then enquired, whether engagements did not subsist between us and the Angrian family of Colaba which would warrant us in interfering on the present occasion, nay even such as to render it incumbent on us to interfere; on which he (Emrut Rou) desired the Munshy to furnish him with my sentiments. The Munshy then asked whether the measures of Baboo Rou Angria against the present occupants of Colaba were not with the sanction of the Peshwa; and whether the Peshwa had not even promised the co-operation of some of his vessels to support Baboo Rou. Both Emrut Rou and Dada Gujra disclaimed the acquiescence of the Peshwa, observing that every means had been adopted by the Poona Durbar for the settlement of the existing differences in the Angrian family by amicable negotiation to which Baboo Rou, supported by the Sindian Party, would not accede. Emrut Rou then desired the Munshy to convey to me his request that I would point out some mode for the accommodation of the existing differences between Baboo Rou and the present occupants of Colaba.

I have the honor to enclose the answer that I immediately prepared on this subject, requesting that Emrut Rou would let me know when it would be convenient to him to receive it, for which he appointed the morning of the 31st, when the Munshy accordingly waited upon him. In answer to Emrut Rou's query as to the engagements between the

Company and the Angrian Family, I instructed the Munshy to observe in the event of the point being reagitated, that though the connexion between us was of such a nature as to be mutually beneficial to us, yet that it did not by any means render it incumbent on us to interpose in the domestic differences of that family. In my answer to Emrut Rou, I have assumed the concert of the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees in his message to me ; because the critical state of the affair in question precludes a prolonged negotiation, which consideration, I desired the Munshy to signify to Emrut Rou, had influenced me in making so full a communication to him. Besides, the assumption of the concert in question is warranted by the close connexion which now appears to subsist between Emrut Rou and Nana, and by the part taken by Dada Gujra on the occasion.

After the perusal of my letter to Doulut Rou Sindia, mentioned in my last address, in the presence of Doulut Rou, Baboo Rou and Bannajee Huzra, Baboo Rou observed to Gunput Rou, Colonel Palmer's Agent at the Sindian Durbar, that his troops had been very successful against Jey Sing and the present occupants of Colaba who were greatly dismayed and blockaded by land, but that having been hitherto disappointed in the co-operation of the Peshwa's vessels to blockade them by sea, he was desirous of the assistance for that purpose of some vessels from Bombay either to be furnished by our Government, or to be purchased or hired by him ; on which he desired him (Gunput Rou) to collect my sentiments. I immediately replied, through Gunput Rou, that lamenting as we did the existence of differences among our friends the members of the Marratta Empire, and the evils inseparable therefrom, acquiescence in Baboo Rou's proposition was totally inadmissible, as rendering us the instruments of fomenting and increasing such differences and evils ; but that were our good offices solicited to compose the differences in question, or to assuage the evils incidental thereto, our endeavours toward the accomplishment of that desirable end would be introduced and prosecuted with much satisfaction, to which I was induced by general conciliatory principles and particularly in promotion of Emrut Rou's object, desiring Meer Fukkeeruddeen to impart to Emrut Rou the advance that I had thus made to Baboo Rou toward an accommodation.

It is worthy of remark that throughout the discussions that have passed between Doulut Rou Sindia, Baboo Rou Angria and this Residency, the Sindian Party have not shown any disposition to accommodate the differences between Baboo Rou and the present occupants of Colaba by amicable negotiation, which added to the success of the Sindian troops and the dismay of Jey Sing's party evinced in their correspondence with the Governor of Bombay, render it improbable that Baboo Rou's party should assent to referring the differences in question to accommodatory negotiation. Still, however, the evincing of our goodwill to mediate between them, particularly at the request of Emrut Rou in concert with the Peshwa and Nana, seems unobjectionable, even should it not be assented to by the

Sindian Party; whereas, in the possible event of its being acquiesced in, although I cannot flatter myself that it is likely to be promotive of our acquisition of either of the islands of Undery or Kundery at the mouth of Bombay harbour alluded to by the Bombay Government, yet it may be desirable to us on the following grounds. — Being conformable to our general just principles of action, and of a nature likely to increase the confidence and goodwill of the natives toward us. Probably promotive of the liquidation of our claims on the Colaba principality and of the Angrian family acting in future toward us agreeably to engagements, friendship, and equity. And, lastly, preventing the establishment of Baboo Rou in the chiefship of Colaba by the exclusive power and influence of the Sindian party thereby, without exceptionableness or commitment, doing an acceptable service to the Bramin Party by an act which is, at the same time, promotive of our own security. I understand that one of the islands above mentioned belongs to the Peshwa and the other to the Angrian Family, and it will be advisable to keep in mind the desirableness to us of one or both of these islands as favourable openings may offer for their acquisition. If the Sindian Party reject our mediation, it will afford us a good precedent, in addition to inefficacy on former occasions, for rejecting theirs between us and the Raja of Kolapore (the head of the Malwauns) and the Dessye of Sawunt Warree, which they will doubtless propose when we may determine to take just satisfaction for the serious injuries and insults which we have experienced for several years past from those piratical states.

The following is the substance of Emrut Rou's answer to my message, which was delivered to him the 31st ultimo by Fukkeeruddeen, Dada Gujra being present. That the Poona Durbar had done everything in their power to adjust the differences between Baboo Rou and the present occupants of Colaba by amicable negotiation, for which purpose an agent had been sent by Jey Sing to Poona, and an offer had been made to Baboo Rou of dividing between him and Jey Sing the management of the Colaba possessions, to which Baboo Rou had shown some disposition to assent on consideration of the fort of Colaba being put into his hands, but that before anything could be concluded the Sindian troops had abruptly advanced and proceeded to hostilities, and that Baboo Rou's object seemed now to be nothing less than the acquisition of the entire chiefship of Colaba for investiture in which he had made an application to the Peshwa, even to the exclusion of Mannajee, the infant son of the late Ragojee Angria, in which however the Peshwa had not acquiesced. That he (Emrut Rou) had not therefore any hope of success from an accommodatory proposition on the part of the Peshwa, Nana Furnavees, or himself, and that consequently the introduction of a conciliatory suggestion to the Sindian Party to this effect on the part of the Company would be highly desirable to him. That Baboo Rou's pretension to the chiefship of Colaba was a late assumption, for that a close connexion

subsisted between the late Mhadjee Sindia and the late Ragojee Angria, the former having procured for the latter the honorary distinction of the Moorchul from the King; and that his infant son Mannajee was indisputably the rightful heir to the chiefship, though he (Emrut Rou) was unacquainted whether or not the form of investiture by the Peshwa had yet actually taken place. Emrut Rou admitted that the means of defence against the Sindian Party of the present occupants of Colaba were very inadequate to their exigencies.

The Bramins in general, and Nana in particular, would doubtless prefer our supporting the cause of the present occupants of Colaba by force, which would be likely not only to drive the Sindian Party from the Concan, but to bring into action a confederacy against them of Nana, the Nizam and Ragojee Bhonsla. For such a service the cession to us of the Islands of Undery and Kundery, and even more important sacrifices would probably be cheerfully made; but our principles of action militate against such a measure which would involve us in the inextricable labyrinth of an intricate implication of interests with the Mahrattas, and subject us to the incalculable evils inseparable therefrom.

Baboo Rou, on Gunput Rou's waiting on him to deliver my message mentioned in the 3rd paragraph, entered into a full communication on the subject of the affairs of Colaba, observing that his adherents had made themselves masters of Heeraghur and that Jey Sing had taken post in the Fort of Colaba, where however he could not long maintain himself; and that orders had been sent to his adherents to take possession, by force, of the vessels which the Peshwa had engaged to furnish him, for the expences of which fifty thousand rupees were to be paid and which Doulut Rou had agreed to admit in part payment to him of his pecuniary claims on the Peshwa and Nana. From this conversation Gunput Rou collected, that nothing less than the entire chiefship of Colaba would satisfy Baboo Rou, who was willing to provide a maintenance for Mannajee, the son of the late Ragojee Angria, but was implacable against Jey Sing; which induced him (Gunput Rou) to suspend the communication of my accommodatory proposition till he could collect my sentiments thereon. After this knowledge of Baboo Rou's disposition and the seizure of Nana Furnavees intervening, which involved the annihilation of the party who had interested themselves in favour of the present occupants of Colaba, I determined to waive all further agitation of the subject here; which, under the new order of things, without any possible good to the present occupants of Colaba, would have been a needless and offensive intrusion both on the Sindian and Peshwa parties.

At the two meetings above mentioned between Emrut Rou and Meer Fukkeeruddeen, nothing passed on the subject of the present negotiations with the Sindian party through Colonel Filose; but Dada Gujra observed to the Munshy that he was not more sanguine of their ending happily than

former negotiations, except indeed from the circumstance of an European being engaged therein, which was a source of some satisfaction and confidence to him.

I have the honor to enclose, for your information, copy of a paper that I have just received from Sir Charles Malet

No. 65A

Translation of a letter from Doulut Rou Sindia to Mr Joshue Uthhoff, without date and received through Gunput Rou on the 1st January 1798

Nana Furnavees following the bent of his own inclination, contrary to the wishes of Sreemunt Behauder (the Peshwa Bajy Rou), and acting improperly and in opposition, has caused great dissatisfaction to His Highness, in consequence of which, the said Nana has, agreeably to the order of Sreemunt, been seized and confined. Considering the union of the states (the Company and the Mahrattas) and that there is not any difference between them, this is communicated for your information; and a letter to the same purport, addressed to Sir Charles Warre Malet, Bart, has been written and is sent to that friend (Mr Uthhoff), which it is requested, may be transmitted to Bombay without delay.

No. 66—Daulatrao Sindia informs Sir Charles Malet of his having put Nana Fadnis under confinement by orders from the Peshwa.

FROM—DAULATRAO SINDIA,
TO—SIR CHARLES WARRE MALET

Received, 3rd January 1798

Nana Furnavees having under the influence of self-will, not studied the pleasure of His Highness Shreemant Bahadur, whose power may long continue, and by a series of unworthy acts and dissensions perpetually (illegible) and disturbed him, he the said Nana has in consequence and in conformity to the commands of His Highness, whose shadow be long extended over us, been placed in confinement, which in consideration of the union of interests of our respective Sarkars and the non-existence of any manner of distinction between us, I have communicated for your information, and as the deep-laid foundation of the fabric of the friendship and unanimity between the said Sarkars has for a long time been, as was becoming, firmly and immovably established and the garden of attachment

and harmony has, as it ought to be, from periods far remote, been blooming and ardent, still by the blessing of God, and that management which preserves the necessary rights of friendship and unanimity and the watering of that stream which nourishes the gradations of our alliance, will the former acquire daily increase of stability, and the latter freshness and beauty without measure.

No. 67—Malet replies to Daulatrao's letter informing him that whatever was dictated by friendship will be done in the dispute between the Angria rivals.

FROM—SIR CHARLES MALET,
TO—DAULATRAO SINDIA.

Bombay Castle, 5th January 1798. At a Council.

Bombay, 1st January 1798.

I have been favoured with your kind and friendly letter on the subject of preventing supplies being carried hence to Colaba, and I have given it due consideration. The anxious desire of this Government to avoid scrupulously all interference in the disputes which distract our neighbours, must be already well known to your discerning mind, and in coincidence with this, so far as is conformable to the principles of impartial justice and the rights of good neighbourhood which it does not become us to deviate from, you may rest assured that your wishes shall meet with every compliance in my power to afford, and accordingly the orders of Government have been already issued in pursuance of this object. Always considering the interests of your Sarkar as inseparably united with our own, what more can I say?

No. 68—After several enquiries and confidential visits to various persons at Poona, Uthhoff reports that there was no prospect of a happy and permanent settlement of the troubles of the Maratha Empire. The reasons of Naná Fadnis' arrest are disclosed by Sindia.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,
TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 4th January 1798.

On the morning of the 2nd instant it was intimated to me by Mehadjee Pundit, one of the inferior agents, who has for many years transacted business on the part of the Durbar with this Residency, that Bapoo Chitnavees would pay me a visit in the course of the morning, with a message from the Peshwa and Emrut Row. He accordingly arrived

between 10 and 11, with a communication from the Peshwa and Emrut Rou to the following purport. That they considered the Company as their best friends in whom they had perfect confidence. That it must have been evident to me for this year past and upwards that the utmost confusion prevailed in the Mahratta Empire without any prospect of a happy and permanent settlement under the existing order of things, in consequence of which it had been determined to seize and confine the person of Nana Furnavees, who was the chief cause of these distractions, which had been accordingly effected by Doulut Rou Sindia agreeably to the Peshwa's orders. That Doulut Rou was a servant of the Peshwa's and would doubtless act according to his orders and wishes, and that they (Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou) meant to act in concert with the Company.

I desired Bapoo to signify to the Peshwa and Emrut Rou in reply, that I considered their communication as a proof of the existing amity between the states and an earnest of its permanence, and that the confidence which they had expressed toward the Company was extremely satisfactory to me, as would it be, I was well persuaded, to you also Hon'ble Sir, and that they might rest perfectly assured that it was not misplaced, in proof of which I begged they would advert to our conduct in general, and in particular during the distractions in the Mahratta Empire since the death of the late Peshwa Mhadoo Rou in October 1795, when they would perceive that not a single party or individual had experienced any prejudice whatever from the Company, whose conduct toward all had been conformable to engagements, friendship and equity, combined with particular respect toward Bajy Rou as Peshwa, from his superior right to that dignity and from our long and close connexion with his family. That our friendship, void of deceit or flattery, was solid and steady, and that we forbore engaging in such pursuits as did not promise an equitable and happy termination to all concerned therein. That I trusted the present order of things here would be promotive of their (Bajy Rou's and Emrut Rou's) welfare, but I begged them to keep in mind, that should it unfortunately prove otherwise, no part of the blame thereof could possibly attach to us, since the introduction, prosecution, and accomplishment thereof, were not only without consultation with us, but even without any communication to us till the present late period. I added that perfect confidence was to be placed in our good faith and friendship toward the Peshwa and Emrut Rou, which it were much to be wished should be reciprocal; but if their actions differed from their professions to us, it would prevent our goodwill operating materially in their favour. I earnestly recommended mild treatment toward the prisoners, as well on principles of humanity as being conducive to the credit of the Peshwa and Emrut Rou.

A general conversation then ensued on the late occurrences in this quarter, in the course of which he was very guarded, pleading ignorance on the most important and delicate points; but I could collect from him that both Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou were well pleased with the seizure and confinement of Nana and his adherents which had been conducted in concert with them, and that the following persons had had some concern therein: Govin Kishen, Colonel Filose, Bekram Cheyla and Meer Assut Ally. The latter, in particular, who pretends to skill in physic, has ingratiated himself with Doulut Rou Sindia chiefly by administering to his sensual gratifications. He said that he understood Bannajee Huzra was not in the secret, being supposed to favor Nana, and that Doulut Rou would pay a visit to the Peshwa in a few days, when many arrangements would take place that are now in suspense.

I desired him to furnish me with the sentiments of the Peshwa and Emrut Rou as to the channel of my negotiations with the Durbar, Moro Pundit being an immediate adherent of Nana's, who, since his seizure, had found it advisable to conceal himself. Bapoo apologized in the name of the Peshwa and Emrut Rou for the lateness of their communication, which was ascribable to multiplicity of business and the confusion of the times; adding, that it was the Peshwa's intention to furnish me with letters on the subject to the address of you, Honourable Sir, and Sir Charles Malet. Bapoo Chitnavees is the person frequently mentioned in the course of my correspondence, as bringing messages to this Residency from Emrut Rou.

I am informed, through other channels; but cannot vouch for the truth of it, that the negotiations, which were lately on foot between Nana and Doulut Rou, comprised the payment of about fifty-five laks of rupees as a consideration for the latter's proceeding to Hindoostan and the surrender to Nana of four of Doulut Rou's adherents who were obnoxious to him, among whom was Bhou Bucksy, and that for Nana's further satisfaction Abba Chitnavees was to be reinstated as Prime Minister with Doulut Rou, for which he was to pay a nuzzerana of twenty-five laks of rupees.

As far as I can yet presume to form any opinion on the subject, it appears to me that the present order of things is not by any means calculated to ensure a happy and permanent settlement of the affairs of the Mahratta Empire. The Peshwa and his brothers without wealth or force or the co-operation of any Mahratta chiefs of any material weight or influence, are more immediately dependent than ever on the Sindian Party, who, in the exercise of their power will probably be imperious and insatiable, while the present order of things is likely to excite the jealousy and ill-will at least of the Nizam, Ragojee Bhonsla and Ally Behadur, and the conduct of all concerned in the late distractions in the Mahratta Empire has been such as effectually to preclude any confidence whatever in them.

I feel it my duty to report to you, Hon'ble Sir, that it is a generally received opinion in this quarter, that but for the confidence which Nana placed in the good faith of Colonel Filose as an European, he would not have put himself, under existing circumstances, into the power of Doulut Rou Sindia by visiting him in his camp. I confess that I am disposed to concur in this opinion. Since Nana's seizure no communication whatever has been made to me, either by him or by Colonel Filose. The doubts expressed to me by Colonel Filose, as mentioned in the 9th paragraph of my address of the 29th ultimo, appeared to me to have reference to his want of confidence in both Doulut Rou and Nana for adhering to the engagements made between them through his mediation.

I understand, through many different channels, that Govin Kishen had been one of the principal instruments in the late negotiations that had for their object the seizure of Nana. It is said that the engagements between Doulut Rou and Bajy Rou specify that Nana's wealth is to be equally divided between them, and that the person of Nana is to be delivered up to Bajy Rou; but so far from any appearance of the latter taking place it is said that Doulut Rou has required that the chiefs mentioned in the 9th paragraph of my last address, and who are still at the Peshwa's palace in town, shall be delivered up to him. As soon as Nana quitted his house on the 31st ultimo to proceed to Sindia's camp, the Peshwa summoned the persons in question instantly to attend the Durbar, which summons was frequently and urgently repeated till they all arrived at the palace, where they have since been kept under restraint, though not very rigid, except Govin Kishen, who negotiates between them and the Peshwa and Emrut Rou. It is said to have been settled that Emrut Rou should have accompanied Nana to Doulut Rou's camp on the 31st ultimo, and he left the Peshwa's palace with his usual attendants about the same time that Nana quitted his house, but instead of proceeding to Doulut Rou's camp he went to one of the Peshwa's gardens on the opposite side of the town, where he stayed during the night returning to the palace the next morning.

On the night of the 31st ultimo, a message was brought to me from Moro Pundit that he had concealed himself in the house of a friend in town; since when I have not heard anything either from or of him.

It is said that Moroba Furnavees is to be sent for to Poona from the fort of Ruttunghur between Juneer and Nasseek. He has been a close prisoner for these twenty years past in consequence of his connexion with the party of the late Ragonaut Rou, Baajy Rou's father.

The late confusions here and particularly the continuance of the Arabs in arms in town, have for the present put an entire stop to all business of a mercantile or banking nature, which has precluded my supplying the Bombay Government with any more money on account of Madras Presidency, as mentioned in the 8th paragraph of my address of the 29th

ultimo ; a farther obstacle to which may be expected from the establishment of the 12 per cent, loan in Bombay, which, by occasioning a great demand for money at Bombay, will probably render the terms of remittance to that place very unfavourable for us. The abolition of the 9 per cent. loan and the establishment of that at 12 per cent. having taken place before my remittance of the lak of rupees, the property of a Mahratta subject, mentioned in the 7th paragraph of my address of the 29th ultimo could reach Bombay, I apprehend it will be deemed advisable to admit the remittance in question to a participation in the benefits of the 12 per cent loan, though the proprietor had acquiesced in subscribing it to the loan of 9 per cent. Such a supererogatory act of liberality will also be likely to have an influence favourable to us.

Anund Rou, one of Nizam Ally Khan's agents at this Court, accompanied Nanna Furnavees to Doulut Rou's camp on the 31st ultimo and was in consequence detained there two or three days, which was chiefly ascribable to the delicacy and confusion of the times. Sheshaudery Pundit, His Highness's other agent, was at the Peshwa's palace at the period in question where he remained during the night.

Sheshaudery Pundit acquaints me that since Nana's seizure Nizam Ally Khan's Dauk between Poona and Hyderabad has been subjected to some interruption, in consequence of which, he requests me to forward his letters by our Dauk. I have already sent one for him, under cover to Captain Kirkpatrick, addressed to Ragotim Rou.

On the morning of the 4th instant, I received a note from Bapoo Chitnavees intimating Emrut Rou's wish that Meer Fukkruddeen should wait upon him in the course of the morning, which he did accordingly, finding him attended only by Bapoo Chitnavees. The message mentioned in the 1st paragraph with my answer was recapitulated, when Emrut Rou desired the Munshy to assure me, that it was the intention of the Peshwa and himself to act entirely in concert with the Company, disclaiming all idea of acting in a manner different from their profession to us ; and as a proof of his unreserve, he made the following communication. That the seizure of Nana had been without either his concurrence or even knowledge ; and that after it had taken place Doulut Rou had represented it as a necessary measure in consequence of Nana's treachery, who had engaged, while at Mhar, to promote to the utmost of his power the welfare both of Bajy Rou and himself (Doulut Rou), yet that he had been tampering with his troops and offering them money, particularly eight lacs of rupees to Colonel Filose and Majors Dugeon and George, of which he would produce ample proofs in the presence of Peshwa and Emrut Rou, but as he did not like to come into town while the Arabs were in arms, Bajy Rou and his two brothers were to pay him a visit for the purpose in camp on the 4th. Emrut Rou observed that Doulut Rou was a servant of the state and would doubtless act in a becoming manner ; but that should

he swerve from his duty and engagements they (the Peshwa and Emrut Rou) must look to the Company for relief, and that it could not be denied but that some causes of difference were but too likely to arise between them and Doulut Rou, particularly in respect to Nana's adherents now under restraint in the Peshwa's palace in town, who, Doulut Rou might require, should be surrendered to him. That under these circumstances they were very desirous of having the option of a body of the Company's troops to assist them, which proposition, Emrut Rou requested, that I would immediately submit to you, Hon'ble Sir, taking great care however that it should not come to the knowledge of Doulut Rou's agent at Calcutta, adding, considering the importance and delicacy of the times, it would be highly desirable both to the Peshwa and himself, that Sir Charles Malet should return to Poona. He observed, that at the suggestion of Doulut Rou the Peshwa had written letters to the address of you, Hon'ble Sir, Nizam Ally Khan, Tippoo Sultaun, Ragojee Bhonsla and Govin Rou Guylkewar, on the subject of Nana's seizure, which were to be forwarded through Doulut Rou. Emrut Rou appeared to the Munshy to be highly gratified at Nana's seizure on a principle of revenge against a person whom he had ever considered as his enemy and as affording him an alluring prospect of grandeur and authority, mixed however with considerable apprehension of the Sindian power, without any judicious arrangement to control or stem the exigencies of the times, of which he seemed to have no comprehension or correct idea.

The following are the principal persons under restraint in the Peshwa's palace in town: Appa Bulwant, Baba Furkia, Bunna Bapoo, Govin Pingleh, Narroo Punt Chukkurdev, Trimbuk Rou Purchora and Moro Punt Gorebola, the latter of whom has hitherto been the Durbar Minister for our affairs at this Court. Govin Kishen and Moroba Furkia are also at the palace in favour with the Peshwa and Emrut Rou, having been concerned in the negotiations for the seizure of Nana. Moroba Furkia is the brother of the late Hurry Punt Furkia and has for some time past espoused and supported, in opposition to Baba Furkia, the cause of Sadasew, the infant son of the late Dadajee, Baba Furkia's elder brother.

In consequence of the dissensions between Kashi Rou Holkar and his Cousin Bapco, mentioned in the 5th paragraph of my address of the 29th ultimo, Kashi Rou is said to have latterly formed some connexion with Nana, which if authentic, will probably subject him to embarrassment from Doulut Rou Sindia.

On the afternoon of the 4th instant the Peshwa, Chimna Appa and Emrut Rou paid a visit to Doulut Rou Sindia at his camp in this neighbourhood, when a long private consultation took place between them.

A settlement is said to have taken place with the Arabs in Nana's service, who have been in arms in town since his seizure, through the mediation of Colorel Filose and Muzzuffer Khan in the service of Doulut Rou.

ultimo ; a farther obstacle to which may be expected from the establishment of the 12 per cent, loan in Bombay, which, by occasioning a great demand for money at Bombay, will probably render the terms of remittance to that place very unfavourable for us. The abolition of the 9 per cent. loan and the establishment of that at 12 per cent. having taken place before my remittance of the lak of rupees, the property of a Māhratta subject, mentioned in the 7th paragraph of my address of the 29th ultimo could reach Bombay, I apprehend it will be deemed advisable to admit the remittance in question to a participation in the benefits of the 12 per cent loan, though the proprietor had acquiesced in subscribing it to the loan of 9 per cent. Such a supererogatory act of liberality will also be likely to have an influence favourable to us.

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he swerve from his duty and engagements they (the Peshwa and Emrut Rou) must look to the Company for relief, and that it could not be denied but that some causes of difference were but too likely to arise between them and Doulut Rou, particularly in respect to Nana's adherents now under restraint in the Peshwa's palace in town, who, Doulut Rou might require, should be surrendered to him. That under these circumstances they were very desirous of having the option of a body of the Company's troops to assist them, which proposition, Emrut Rou requested, that I would immediately submit to you, Hon'ble Sir, taking great care however that it should not come to the knowledge of Doulut Rou's agent at Calcutta, adding, considering the importance and delicacy of the times, it would be highly desirable both to the Peshwa and himself, that Sir Charles Malet should return to Poona. He observed, that at the suggestion of Doulut Rou the Peshwa had written letters to the address of you, Hon'ble Sir, Nizam Ally Khan, Tippoo Sultaun, Ragojee Bhonsla and Govin Rou Guykewar, on the subject of Nana's seizure, which were to be forwarded through Doulut Rou. Emrut Rou appeared to the Munshy to be highly gratified at Nana's seizure on a principle of revenge against a person whom he had ever considered as his enemy and as affording him an alluring prospect of grandeur and authority, mixed however with considerable apprehension of the Sindian power, without any judicious arrangement to control or stem the exigencies of the times, of which he seemed to have no comprehension or correct idea.

The following are the principal persons under restraint in the Peshwa's palace in town: Appa Bulwant, Baba Furkia, Bunna Bapoo, Govin Pingleh, Narroo Punt Chukkurdev, Trimbuk Rou Purchora and Moro Punt Gorebola, the latter of whom has hitherto been the Durbar Minister for our affairs at this Court. Govin Kishen and Moroba Furkia are also at the palace in favour with the Peshwa and Emrut Rou, having been concerned in the negotiations for the seizure of Nana. Moroba Furkia is the brother of the late Hurry Punt Furkia and has for some time past espoused and supported, in opposition to Baba Furkia, the cause of Sadasew, the infant son of the late Dadajee, Baba Furkia's elder brother.

In consequence of the dissensions between Kashi Rou Holkar and his Cousin Bapco, mentioned in the 5th paragraph of my address of the 29th ultimo, Kashi Rou is said to have latterly formed some connexion with Nana, which if authentic, will probably subject him to embarrassment from Doulut Rou Sindia.

On the afternoon of the 4th instant the Peshwa, Chimna Appa and Emrut Rou paid a visit to Doulut Rou Sindia at his camp in this neighbourhood, when a long private consultation took place between them.

A settlement is said to have taken place with the Arabs in Nana's service, who have been in arms in town since his seizure, through the mediation of Colonel Filose and Muzzuffer Khan in the service of Doulut Rou,

and Shameer Khan, a Chief in the Peshwa's service. I understand that twenty-one thousand rupees are to be paid to them on account of arrears, and that they are to be permitted to proceed with their arms and property to Guzerat, taking hostages with them to a certain distance from Poona. They are expected to commence their journey this day to the number of between two and three thousand. I cannot vouch for the authenticity of this intelligence of the arrangement with the Arabs.

From the view that I have hitherto taken of the subject, it does not at present appear to me that the seizure of Nanna involves consequences inimical or materially prejudicial to us, however much the turpitude of the act may justly excite abhorrence.

No. 69—Uthhoff communicates the Peshwa's sanction to the seizure of Nana Fadnis by Daulatrao Sindia.

FROM—THE ACTING RESIDENT AT POONA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY.

Poona, 5th January 1798.

I have the honour to acquaint you that I have received a very friendly communication from Bajirao, and Emrutao, avowing the Peshwa's sanction to the seizure of Nana Furnavces by Daulatrao Sindia on the 31st ultimo, and professing the most perfect amity towards the Company.

No. 70—Uthhoff reports to the Governor General the views of the several interested parties towards the seizure of Nana Fadnis and his own observations on the consequences of that important event. Raghupatrao a follower of Bapu Holkar was murdered at Poona, adds the writer.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,
TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 8th January 1798.

Rouba, the Agent at this Court of Govin Rou Guykewar, acquaints me, that at a late meeting with Jadoo Rou Bhaskar, one of Doulut Rou Sindia's principal ministers, who was engaged with Colonel Filose and Bannajee Huzra in some of the late negotiations between Doulut Rou and Nana, and who has been one of the channels of intercourse between those two personages since Nana's seizure, he collected from Jadoo Rou Bhaskar the following particulars. That on Nana's remonstrating with Doulut Rou on his last conduct in violation of the engagements between them and

of his oaths and protestations of friendship, Doulut Rou had observed that what he had done, was by orders of his Master the Peshwa, charging Nana at the same time, with treachery in tampering with his troops and adherents, and endeavouring to allure them from their duty by promises and offers of money, particularly Colonel Catielho Filose. To which Nana had replied that he had not been guilty of treachery either to the Peshwa or to Doulut Rou. That it was true, that from the confusion in which the affairs of the state were involved and the distress of the husbandmen from the presence of Doulut Rou in this quarter with a large army, he was very desirous of effecting his removal to Hindoostan; and that from observing that Doulut Rou's councils were perpetually wavering, shifting his confidence from Bannajee Huzra to Kundoo Cheyla, Bikram Cheyla, Meer Assud Ally, &c, he (Nana) was desirous of conducting his negotiations with Doulut Rou through some channel of respectability, and that he had fixed on Colonel Filose as having an extensive command in Sindia's service and being an European, in whom he had more confidence than in his other ministers; and that in the course of the negotiations he had made him some presents in consideration of his good offices. Jadoo Rou Bhaskar was of opinion that no written proofs of treachery could be adduced against Nana and that his seizure was a short-sighted and ill-judged measure and was likely to produce very serious evil consequences to the Sindian Party, which they were neither prepared nor able to remedy.

The general appearance of affairs here is somewhat corroborative of the authenticity of the above; and it is to be observed that both the offer and acceptance of money in this quarter are not only considered, at the worst, as a venal offence, but are held in many cases to be even meritorious.

Almost the whole of Nana's principal adherents in this quarter are secured, except Doonda Punt Nitsooreh, the Killadar of Loghur, who is said to have proceeded toward Bombay, after providing for the defence of that fort; and Bapoo, the brother of Abba Selokur, who is said to have gone toward Hyderabad. These two persons happened to be at some little distance from Poona on Nana's seizure.

On the night of the 5th instant, as Rukput Rou, a Bramin, was proceeding from the camp of Kassi Rou Holkar to his house in Poona, he was beset, in the skirts of the town by a body of armed men, who after wounding one or two of his followers, severed his head from his body. Rukput Rou was originally an adherent of Bapoo Holkar, Kassi Rou's cousin, to whom he still continued closely attached, though he had been of late employed as the agent of Kassi Rou at the Sindian Durbar, and is considered to have been one of the principal instruments in the negotiations which terminated in the assassination of Kassi Rou's brother, Malhar Rou, on the 14th September last. The perpetrators of this act are not yet discovered, and conjecture wavers between their being the adherents of the late Malhar Rou, in revenge for his death, or persons employed by Kassi Rou. You

will have observed, Hon'ble Sir, from my late addresses that serious dissensions exist between Kassi Rou and Bapoo Holkar.

It is rumoured on the one hand that the Peshwa requires the surrender to him of Nana and his adherents, who are in Doulut Rou's custody; and on the other that Doulut Rou requires the surrender to him of those who are under restraint at the Peshwa's palace in town. Some of the persons in question will, perhaps, end their days in a prison; the whole of the property that can be discovered of some of the others will probably be confiscated; and scarcely one can be expected to obtain his liberation without a heavy contribution.

It is also rumoured, with a good deal of confidence, that one of the next grand measures of the Sindian party, if not obstructed by serious dissensions with the Peshwa's party, will be a peremptory demand on the Nizam of country and money to which the Peshwa and Sindia have some claim, within the just limits of which, however, they are not likely to confine themselves. The Sindian party are considered to be actuated on the occasion by general ambition and avarice combined with distress for money for the payment of their troops and revenge and security against His Highness as an adherent of Nana, while the Peshwa's party are anxious to recover the sacrifices that they have lately made to the Nizam and will perhaps be stimulated by the rancour of Govin Kishen against the Court of Hyderabad, at the same time that the removal of the Sindian force to a distance from Poona and diverting its attention and employment toward the Nizam, will be likely to have weight with the Poona Durbær in undertaking an expedition against His Highness.

You will have collected, Hon'ble Sir, from the correspondence of this Residency for a long time past that Ragojee Bhonsla, as well as the Nizam, is supposed to have favoured the cause of Nana against the Sindian Party. Some symptoms of the ill-will of the present Poona Durbar toward Ragojee Bhonsla have been already evinced, in countermanding some measures that were in agitation here to facilitate Ragojee Bhonsla's acquisition of Gurra Mundela and in the stoppage of some military stores and other articles belonging to him, lately provided by some of his agents at Bombay.

The ascendancy of the Sindian Party over that of the Peshwa, the duplicity evinced by Emrut Rou even toward us in pretending for these two months past to have formed a close and cordial connexion with Nana, and the contradictoriness and palpable misrepresentation in his communications to us since Nana's seizure will, in addition to the expected early arrival here of Colonel Palmer, induce me to be very reserved in my conduct to this Court, till the receipt of your instructions for the regulation of the Residency under the new order of things in this quarter.

On the 7th instant, Emrut Rou accompanied by Govin Kishen paid a visit to Doulut Rou with whom they had a long private consultation. At the same time Bajy Rou and Chimna Appa went to a garden in this

neighbourhood taking with them Govin Pingleh and Trimbuck Rou Purchora.

No intercourse whatever has taken place between this Residency and Nana Furnavees or Colonel Filose, since Nana's seizure on the 31st ultimo

The Arabs are still in town but quiet, and the shops are opened. Jey Sing Angria's party were yesterday morning still in possession of Colaba.

No. 71—This important letter explains the part played by Col. Filose in the arrest of Nana Fadnis. His agent presents his version of the affair. The letter adds that there was no regular tribunal of civil or criminal justice in Poona and that the Sindian party possessed force and cunning but no wisdom.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 10th January 1798

On the 9th instant I received a communication from Colonel Catielhou Filose through the same person who made the former communication to me as mentioned in the 9th paragraph of my address of the 29th ultimo. The agent introduced the subject by observing to me that Colonel Filose had been very inquisitive, whether or not he had seen me since the seizure of Nana Furnavees on the 31st ultimo, what information I have on the subject and what was my opinion thereon. To which he (the agent) replied, that he had seen me; that I had received intelligence on the subject in question through various channels to which I listened, without making any remarks. Colonel Filose added that he was aware that rumours on the occasion to his prejudice were afloat and that he was desirous of paying me a visit, to explain to me all the particulars of the affair in question, desiring the agent, in the interim to communicate the following points to me. That Nana Furnavees had been tampering with him offering him fifteen laks of rupees in ready money and a jaghire from the possession of Pursuram Bhou in the Tasgaum quarter, on condition of his obtaining the march of Doulut Rou towards Hindoostan and considering himself (Colonel Filose) and his Corps in his (Nana's) service, to seize Doulut Rou and assist him (Nana) in the seizure of Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou, and placing an adopted minor in the Peshwaship. That on mentioning these propositions of Nana's to Doulut Rou it had been determined to counterplot Nana, in the prosecution of which he (the Colonel) had pretended to accede to Nana's propositions, the progress and result of which in the seizure of Nana were too conspicuous to require repetition. That to the underplot no one was privy except Doulut Rou, Emrut Rou and himself (the Colonel), the arrangements for the seizure being entrusted to him; the general assent of the Peshwa Bajy Rou to Nana's arrest having been previously obtained. That he (the Colonel) was to have a jaghire in reward for his services on the occasion which he should

endeavour to procure in the quarter of Jumboseer, or somewhere near the sea-coast. That in the course of the negotiations Nana had enquired what countryman he (the Colonel) was, expressing satisfaction at hearing he was not an Englishman, observing that the English were not to be depended upon, being bent solely on their own aggrandizement. The agent said that he understood no writings between Nana and Colonel Filose could be produced that would prove Nana's guilt.

I observed in reply that the affairs of this quarter were at the present period of a very delicate nature, as was my situation. That what the Colonel had thus communicated had not reached me through any other channel; the general reports on the subject which I had heard, being as the seemed aware somewhat to his prejudice; and that I begged to submit him the advisableness of removing the rumours in question, by some explanation of the propriety of his conduct on the occasion; after which his visit to me would be perfectly agreeable: thanking him, in the interim, for his communication, a continuation of which, I observed, would be very acceptable to me; and that it would afford me satisfaction to learn that he had refuted the rumours now in circulation to his prejudice.

I could not reconcile it, either to my official or private character, to have any personal friendly intercourse with Colonel Filose under his present circumstances which might afford ground for suspicion or rumour, of our having had some concern in the arrest of Nana, in which Colonel Filose, has been by far the most conspicuous character, nay almost, the sole actor. Although I forbear among persons in this quarter from reprobating the affair of Nana's seizure, yet, on the other hand, I carefully refrain from everything that might have the appearance or bear the construction of sanction or approbation thereof. A visit to me from Colonel Filose, under present circumstances, might be objectionable to the Peshwa, Emrut Rou or Doulut Rou Sindia. Rumeurs are very prevalent both in Sindia's camp and in Poona that since Nana's seizure, some ill-will or at least coolness has been generated between Doulut Rou and Colonel Filose, which is corroborated by the Colonel not having been present at the meeting between Doulut Rou and the Peshwa on the 4th instant, nor at that between Doulut Rou and Emrut Rou on the 7th, and indeed for five or six days past he has absented himself from Sindia's Durbar which seems somewhat worthy (of) remark on the present occasion.

I have reason to think that there is not any misrepresentation on the part of the agent, though I will not pretend to vouch for the authenticity of every particular of Colonel Filose's communication. Under existing circumstances, at the present period, something more than a bare assertion is requisite on the subject of state affairs to command implicit confidence, particularly from the actors therein themselves, and where there is a palpable interested object in view. That very few were privy to the design of the seizure of Nana may be readily conceded, and it is corroborated by general opinion and appearances here.

It is generally surmised in this quarter that the death of Rukput Rou mentioned in the 4th paragraph of my last address, was by order of Kassi Rou Holkar. No formal enquiry has taken place on the subject; and it may not be unworthy to remark that after twelve years' residence among the Mahrattas, I have not been able to discover that they have any such institution as a tribunal of justice for the trial of either criminal or civil cases; all causes being determined either by the disposition of the chief or by arbitration, with occasional references to sacred writings and religious men, corruption being universal and, indeed, not considered as a heinous offence. It must, however, be acknowledged that the sentences are generally tempered with moderation and are seldom sanguinary. Rukput Rou a few months' ago celebrated some religious ceremonies in this quarter when he was held of sufficient consequence to receive visits from the Peshwa, Chimna Appa, Emrut Rou, Nana Furnavees, Doulut Rou Sindia, Kassi Rou Holkar, and indeed all the principal persons in this quarter.

On the 10th instant, I received from Doulut Rou Sindia a letter to the address of Sir Charles Malet, requesting that the fugitives to Bombay from the Colaba District might be secured

On the 9th instant about 1,500 of the Arabs lately in the service of Nana Furnavees left town, and encamped within about a mile. They seem not likely to give any further trouble to the Peshwa or Doulut Rou Sindia. Some of them have taken service with the chiefs in this quarter and others, it is said, will proceed to Guzerat and Hyderabad.

Among the rumours of the measures in agitation here is the release of Moroba Furnavees, Ballo Tantea and Purseram Bhow, on the payment of a large sum of money to Doulut Rou Sindia, but I am inclined to think that no material progress has been yet made therein.

The ambition and avarice of the Sindian Party are unsatiable and though they possess force and some cunning, they appear to be almost totally destitute of either wisdom or virtue.

No. 72—This is a very precious document containing Uththoff's important reflections on the conduct and achievements of Nana Fadnis, on the personnel and strength of the Sindia's army and the comparative military position of the Marathas and the British

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART

Poona, 15th January 1798

Philanthropy would fondly imagine that no power could long maintain itself under such licentious predatory conduct as had ever distinguished the Sindian Party, but alas! the experience of the last fifteen years has

established the reverse of this position, which however it must be admitted, is in a great degree, ascribable to the weakness and vices of its opponents. The Sindian Party in its principles, mulcts and designs, seems little better than a band of freebooters deriving some legitimate authority and other advantages from its original institution as a branch of the Mahratta Empire, or rather a military chief or servant established and supported by the Peshwa's possessing power and influence, from the talents of the late Mahadjee Sindia and his dignity as the guarantee of the engagements between the Company and the Peshwa, and from the numbers and respectability of its military force and success comparatively with the other branches of the Mahratta Empire, which it has been enabled to exercise with peculiarly great effect from the iniquity of Nana, the other chief possessor of power and influence in the state, in attempting to subvert the right of Bajy Rou to the Peshwaship on the death of the late Peshwa Mahadoo Rou in October 1795, and the incalculable consequences of that one false step. *Nana's power and influence were founded in his opposition to the late Ragoba, whose cause perhaps was less just than Nana's, and who was supported by us in a manner that may be considered feeble as compared with what we could now do against the Mahrattas. They were subsequently supported, consolidated and augmented by his having for a series of years the control of the state as Regent or executive Minister under a tractable minor Peshwa, who was universally acknowledged both by foreign Powers and the members of the Mahratta Empire as the rightful head of the state; and it must be acknowledged, that in the conduct of this important and arduous trust for a series of years Nana displayed considerable talents of a civil and financial nature, exerted with regularity, firmness and consistency qualified with great prudence and moderation, bending without breaking to foreign and domestic storms, but possessing the address to recover his former position and to consign to almost total oblivion such instances as occurred in his conduct of temporizing pusillanimity; but Nana did not even pretend to executive military talents and never cultivated the goodwill of the army, relying chiefly on his civil authority and address to control them, which with his command of the treasures and resources of the state and the authority and influence of the Peshwaship, gave him till Madoo Rou's death in October 1795, an effectual control not only over the military immediately dependent on the Peshwa, but also over the great members of the Empire.*

Although during the distractions in which the Mahratta Empire has been of late involved, the Sindian influence has possessed such an ascendancy supported by its military power as to effect several general revolutions, enjoying during the whole of the time an extensive control in the state, yet it is worthy of remark that Doulut Rou's force in this quarter does not appear to have exceeded twenty or twenty-five thousand good cavalry and about fifteen thousand Infantry, superior no doubt in numbers and respectability

to the rest of the military in this quarter, but such as, I humbly presume, would be but little formidable to such a force as we could bring into the field ably commanded, well equipped, provisioned and paid, and whose allegiance might be depended upon. In support of which opinion I beg leave to submit to you, Honourable Sir, a few remarks on the European Officers attached to the regular Infantry which is the part of the Sindian force held in this quarter in the highest estimation. De Boigne's Brigade here, which consists of about ten Battalions till lately commanded by Colonel Perron, is now commanded by Major Dugeon who has under him Mr Du Prat, Mr Allimand, Mr. Hill, a British Subject, and a few very young Officers, five or six of the Senior Officers having resigned the service in disgust within this last twelve months. The two former are French men without any very distinguished military talents. The third is, I believe, a Swiss and has been in England and was once a Subaltern on the Madras Establishment. There are also about ten Battalions under Colonel Catielho Filose, an Italian, who though a shrewd man of some address, possesses no pre-eminent military talents, is decidedly avaricious and altogether illiterate. He has about eight European Officers under him, the majority of whom are British subjects lately under Mr Boyd, without, I believe, a single Frenchman. There are two or three Battalions under Major George Hessing, a young man born in India, the son of a Dutchman, who has under him three or four European Officers, the majority of whom are British subjects. There are also in the Sindian service a few Battalions of Infantry officered by natives. I understand that the European Officers above-mentioned, do not consider their force by any means equal to cope with ours and that they do not entertain inveterate enmity or rancour towards us, holding in estimation our government and military force. Colonel Filose, in particular, who has a great deal of property at Calcutta and Bombay, has been hitherto very favourably disposed toward us, though he may perhaps, be somewhat affected by the political vortex into which he has of late been plunged. The European subjects above-mentioned are chiefly of three descriptions persons, who have been formerly in the situation of gentlemen in our service which they have been under the necessity of quitting, others who have obtained the tacit acquiescence of our government to entering into the service of the native powers, or deserters from our service. So far from their being in general unfavourably disposed toward us, I am inclined to think, that in the event of our being engaged in war with the Mahrattas the majority of them would not, under present circumstances, act against us.

No. 73—Uthhoff mentions the various evil consequences of the arrest of Nana Fadnis and the efforts of Daulatrao to possess himself of all Nana's wealth.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 19th January 1798.

On the 16th instant I had the honor to receive a letter from Captain Paris Bradshaw, Fattyghur, 20th ultimo, giving me with other interesting advices from that quarter the only intelligence I possess, of the disposition made for conducting the affairs of the Sindian Residency since Colonel Palmer's relinquishment of that trust on quitting Fattyghur the 11th November last, on his journey to Poona, to assume the Residency with the Peshwa. Not having any intelligence of Colonel Palmer's departure from Jaunsi you must necessarily possess more recent and authentic information of the Colonel's movements than I can possibly furnish you at present from this distant quarter.

Intelligence of thirteen days from Naugpore intimates that Gujaba Gujer has been prevailed upon to relinquish his intention of joining Doulut Rou Sindia and that he was on the point of being reconciled to his uncle Ragojee Bhonsla, principally through the mediation of Sullaubut Khan, a chief in the service of Nizam Ally Khan and brother of Bhitool Khan, Subadar of Aurungabad and Ellichpore, between whom and the Bhonsla Family a close connexion has, I understand, long subsisted.

It has been intimated to me, through a channel of considerable credit and corroborated by the general appearance and persuasion in this-quarter, that Doulut Rou Sindia has required to be invested with the office of Dewan to the Peshwa with an efficient control in all the affairs of the state, to which both Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou object, observing that if Doulut Rou will conduct himself in a manner becoming his situation as a chief of the Empire subordinate to the Peshwa, it is well; otherwise, they (Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou) will retire to Benares or some other religious place.

Although some preparations were actually made for conducting Moroba Furnavees hither, that point is not yet by any means satisfactorily arranged. Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou partly from personal affection and partly for the consolidation of their power, have shown a disposition to liberate and provide for all the adherents of their father, the late Ragoba, who have been much depressed during the long administration of Nana. Moroba, Nana's cousin, is one of the principal persons of this description who has been under restraint for upwards of twenty years, prior to which he had some share in governmental affairs. Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou, amidst their embarrassments, fondly expect relief from his reputation and talents in the management of affairs here. On the other hand, it is said,

that at some period of the distractions in this quarter subsequent to the death of the late Peshwa Mhadoo Rou in October 1795, the wife and son of Moroba who reside in Poona, made an offer to Doulut Rou Sindia of fifty lacs of rupees on condition of his liberating Moroba, which he now requires for his assent thereto, in addition to which Moroba is to conduct affairs under his (Doulut Rou's) influence, while by his presence in this quarter something may probably be extorted from Nana

Doulut Rou is said to require from Nana an account of his property and instructions to the persons with whom it is deposited, for the delivery thereof to him : to which Nana pleads his not being in possession of any wealth, nor credit or influence while under restraint, suggesting to Doulut Rou to recover from his partisans the property to the amount of near a crore of rupees, which he (Nana) had distributed among them and the return for which had been treachery and imprisonment Bannajee Huzra, Doulut Rou's nominal Prime Minister, is said to have produced an account of thirteen lakhs of rupees, which he has accumulated within these two years ; a considerable part of which Doulut Rou has appropriated to his own use

Doulut Rou has not yet paid a visit to the Peshwa since Nana's arrest on the 31st ultimo, Colonel Filose continues to absent himself from Doulut Rou's Durbar on the plea of indisposition which, though not altogether a feint, yet I have reason to think that his absence is chiefly ascribable to political considerations. Murders, robberies and plunder, are more prevalent than ever in Poona

Nothing material appears to have lately passed respecting the state prisoners in Sindia's camp and at the Peshwa's palace in town It is said that some of the latter would be permitted to proceed to their own places of residence were it not from apprehension that they would, in that case, be seized by Doulut Rou.

Since writing the above, I learn that Colonel Filose yesterday afternoon paid his respects in person to Doulut Rou Sindia, when it is remarked that he was attended by an unusually large retinue.

No. 74—The Assistant Resident communicates to the Bombay Govt some important reflections on the surrender of delinquent refugees running away from the Maratha State The question is ably discussed in view of British interests involved therein.

FROM—THE ACTING RESIDENT,

TO—JONATHAN DUNCAN, GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BOMBAY

Poona, 22nd January 1798

Hon'ble Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Secretary Morris's letter of the 16th instant, enclosing copy of a letter from the Resident at Fort Victoria and beg leave to refer you to the letter from the Supreme

Government to your Honourable Board dated 18th July 1796, for their sentiments on the point in question.

As however, you have been pleased to express a wish to be furnished with such remarks as may occur to me on the subject, I am induced to submit the following reflections to your notice.

The distractions in which the Maratha Empire has been involved subsequent to the death of the late Peshwa Mhadoorao in October 1795, afford a prospect of many Maratha subjects, particularly the adherents of Nana Furnavees, and of the present occupants of Colaba, seeking an asylum under our Government, and bringing with them part at least of their families and property. The stipulation of treaties between us and the Marathas, of the most recent date, and the most pointedly applicable on the occasion in question, is the following article of the additional treaty concluded between the Peshwa and the Company, through the mediation of the late Mhadjee Sindia under date 26th April 1783. It is agreed to between the Honourable Company and the Peshwa Madaurao Pandit Pradhan, that "if any chief, merchant, or other person, should hereafter fly from the territories of the Honourable Company to those of the Peshwa or from the territories of the Peshwa to those of the Company no protection shall be afforded to such person by either party."

It does not appear to me, that the above stipulation necessarily implies that the subjects of one state should be prohibited from taking up their residence. They should, in the first instance, be seized and restored to the power from which they may have emigrated. It seems to me sufficient, that in the event of their being claimed and being found to come within the description meant by the contracting parties, protection should not be afforded to them. Whether or not, they ought in such case, to be actually delivered up, may admit of doubt. At all events, there is every reason to conclude, that the Marathas would not put a construction on the stipulation in question more favourable to us, in any case of our subjects migrating to them. Messrs. Arnott and Bellasis, about three years ago under circumstances very exceptionable to our Government, entered into the military service of Ally Behauder, and a formal application was made to the Marathas on the occasion by the Governor General. Ally Behauder at length after a good deal of delay and evasion, discharged them from his service, when Mr. Arnott of his own free will surrendered himself to our Government, and Mr. Bellasis entered into the service of some other native powers, and after frequently changing masters he is, I understand, at the present period, again in the service of Ally Behauder. Instances might be adduced, not only of the Marathas receiving our subjects, but also of their evading the delivery of them when demanded, and even continuing their protection to them. Not only protection but support and encouragement, have been afforded to our refugee delinquent Cheyt Sing of Benaras by Daulatrao Sindia and his predecessor.

The influx of emigrants is desirable to us as promotive of the population, wealth, and resources of our territories, while humanity also is an advocate against abandoning innocent suppliants for an asylum under an equitable government in tranquillity, from the miseries of the distractions in which the Maratha Empire has been of late involved. Without using any undue means of obtaining refugees or committing ourselves by any promise of protection to them, I beg to submit to you, Honourable Sir, whether it is not both warrantable and advisable to grant them the advantage of tacit acquiescence in their residing within our jurisdiction, while they conduct themselves with propriety towards us, and no offence is thereby given to, or complaint made by the Maratha Government. Among neighbouring foreign states subjects will be constantly removing from one jurisdiction to another, without in general any material prejudice to either state, though, if every instance were to become a subject of discussion between them, the consequences would be uncalculably extensive and embarrassing. The dissensions between the Peshwa's and Sindian parties, and the general distracted state of affairs in the Maratha Empire tend to ensure us against embarrassing application with respect to Maratha subjects, whose residence within our jurisdiction may have been tacitly acquiesced in by us.

Adverting to the injuries and insults which we have long experienced from the unprincipled predatory conduct of the Raja of Kolhapur (the head of the Malwans) the Dessye of Sawantwadi (the Rarce chief) the Gheria fleet, and the Angrian family of Colaba, and the delay, evasion, and (illegible) in which all our applications for redress are involved permit me to submit to you, Honourable Sir, the advisableness of seizing the property of those pirates, in satisfaction of our just demands, wherever it can be met with, and to call in a more particular manner to your notice the property of Manajee and Jaising Angria which, there is reason to think, may be now in Bombay, since, if no recoveries be made from those reasons at the present period, our claims against them will, in all probability, be never liquidated, for the ascendancy of Baburao Angria will be likely to deprive them of all means of payment, while he (Baburao) will hardly be disposed to hold himself responsible for our claims on his predecessors in the Colaba Chiefship. Should Baburao or Daulatrao Sindia require the surrender of any of the late fugitives from Colaba to our districts, I beg to submit to you, Honourable Sir, whether we shall not be fully warranted in waiving their surrender at least till our just demands on the Colaba chiefship are satisfied, and it is worthy of notice, that although we are bound to the Peshwa not to afford protection to his subjects under certain circumstances, yet that stipulation does not extend to Daulatrao Sindia nor Baburao Angria, while from the existing dissensions between the Peshwa's and Sindian parties, and the exceptionableness towards the Peshwa of the late conduct of Daulatrao and Baburao in the affair of Colaba, there is reason to think that the Peshwa would not avail himself

of his privilege (admitting its applicableness) in the case in question for the gratification of those two chiefs.

No. 75—Uthhoff reports various occurrences and restless conditions in several parts of the Maratha Kingdom owing to the arrest of Nana Fadnis.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 22nd January 1798.

I have advices from Naugpore that intelligence of the arrest of Nana Furnavees reached Ragojee Bhonsla in eight days; that he had in consequence been deeply engaged in consultation with his principal ministers, had despatched letters to the Court of Hyderabad and instructions to Ramchunder Pundit at Ellichpore, formerly his agent at that Court, which office is now held by his son, the purport of which is supposed to have had reference to Nana's arrest and its consequences; and that directions had been issued to Wittul Pundit, lately detached with a force toward Gurra Mundela, to halt till further orders at Doongur Talaub, about 22 coss from Naugpore. Gujaba Gujer had returned to Naugpore and had an interview with Ragojee Bhonsla.

On the 20th instant, Govin Kishen by the Peshwa's orders, paid a visit to Doulut Rou Sindia, with whom he had a private audience.

It is said that Raijee Patell and others, the most respectable of the Sindian party, have recommended to Doulut Rou to proceed to Hindoostan, leaving Bajy Rou in the full enjoyment of the Peshwaship in promotion of the welfare of the Mahratta Empire and his own good name, to which he shows some disposition to accede; on condition of the payment to him of a very large sum of money.

On the other hand the Peshwa and Emrut Rou are said to be endeavouring to raise troops in which they find considerable embarrassment from the want of money and the absence of confidence in the stability or even present state of their authority.

In addition to the obstacles on the part of the Peshwa and Sindian parties to the introduction of Moroba Furnavees into the management of affairs here mentioned in my last address, it is said that Moroba himself objects to have any concern therein while Doulut Rou's guards continue at the Peshwa's palace, and his influence interferes with the authority of the Peshwaship.

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Doulut Rou yesterday delivered Abba Selokur into the custody of Narrain Rou Bukshy for the purpose of recovering from him ten laks of rupees. It is said that Dada Gujra offers ten laks of rupees for his

liberation, but that Doulut Rou requires fifty. It is expected that Doulut Rou will pay a visit to-morrow to the Peshwa at the palace in town.

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Doulut Rou Sindia and Kassi Rou Holkar paid a visit together this afternoon to the Peshwa at the palace in town

No. 76—This contains further reflections concerning the surrender of refugees discussed in the preceding letter.

FROM—MR. JOSHUA UHTHOFF,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 26th January 1798

In the course of conversation, Bapoo Chitnavees observed that several Maratha subjects, particularly the adherents of Nanna Furnavees, had of late fled from the Maratha country to the Company's possessions at Bombay, Salsette, and Bancote, with considerable property, whose surrender would be agreeable to friendship. I observed, that what such persons might have carried away with them could be of little or no consideration, that the grand object of the Peshwa at present was the settlement of affairs at Poona, after which, the persons in question would probably return, or the affair might be investigated, but that even admitting the property in question could now be secured, the appropriation thereof would become a new source of dissension between the Peshwa's and Sindean parties

No. 77—This contains a weighty exhortation administered by the Resident to the Peshwa and his brother Amrutrao through Bapu Chitnavis, who had been deputed by them to communicate their present straits to the Resident

FROM—J UHTHOFF,
TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART

Poona, 26th January 1798

Early in the morning of the 24th instant, I received a message from Bapoo Chitnavees that he was charged with a communication to me from the Peshwa and Emrut Rou, which he would deliver to me in person in the course of the morning. He accordingly came about 11 and, after compliments and friendly enquiries, made a communication on the part of the Peshwa and Emrut Rou to the following purport. That Doulut Rou Sindia was perpetually changing his ministers and his councils and

that his ambition and avarice were insatiable. That he now required that all the landed possessions of Nana should be made over to him with half the other property that might be recovered from the state prisoners arrested on the 31st ultimo, two forts and a Jaghire of ten laks of rupees annual revenue for the maintenance of his troops stationed with the Peshwa, and that some person should be established on his part with the Peshwa with an efficient control in the management of all the affairs of the State. That they could not accede to these exorbitant requisitions of Doulut Rou's, which would, in fact, reduce the Peshwaship to a nonentity, and that they therefore requested my sentiments for the regulation of their conduct toward Doulut Rou, having the most implicit confidence in the good faith and good-will of the Company toward them. Bapoo added, that Baboo Rou Angria was committing great depredations in the Concan even beyond the limits of the Colaba chiefship and that their acquiescence in Baboo Rou's designs against Colaba was extorted from them much against their own inclinations. That Nana had been seized on account of his treasonable practices with the adherents and troops of Doulut Rou, and that the only engagement made on the occasion between the Peshwa and Doulut Rou was that Nana was to be surrendered to the former.

I commenced my reply to the above, with observing, that the Company's principles of action were conformable to engagements, amity and equity toward all states, parties, and individuals, with particular goodwill toward Bajy Rou as the rightful possessor of the Peshwaship and from our long and close connexion with his late father Ragoba. That the confidence placed in us by Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou was very gratifying to us and that they might be assured that it was not misplaced ; of which indeed, the best security was our conduct in general, and in particular during the late distractions in the Mahratta Empire, when it must have been evident to all, that no attempt had been made by us for the gratification of ambition or avarice, notwithstanding the many favourable opportunities that had occurred, and that not a single party or individual either in prosperity or adversity had been injured or deceived by us. That in affairs where we could not do good we would not interfere, being averse from deceiving with fallacious hopes. That if their conduct differed from their professions to us it defeated the possibility of our good-will operating to their benefit. I entreated that the Peshwa and Emrut Rou would favour me with the most unreserved communication on the state of affairs here, assuring them that every good office in my power should, as far as consistent with propriety, be exerted in their favour and that at all events I would not do anything to their prejudice.

To the above general observations I added that as a proof of the sincerity of our goodwill toward the Peshwa and Emrut Rou, I would in compliance with the request which they had been pleased to prefer to me, submit to them such ideas as occurred to me on the subject, which were

to the following effect. To act toward all persons and on all occasions both foreign and domestic, agreeably to engagements, amity and equity, which would ensure attachment, confidence and satisfaction and probable success in all their pursuits. To intimate to Doulut Rou Sindia that the distractions in which the Mahratta Empire had been involved since the death of the late Peshwa Mhadoo Rou in October 1795, had materially injured the country and brought misery on the inhabitants, the only effectual remedy for which evils, seemed to be a cordial reconciliation of parties, and general settlement of the affairs of the state. That without good faith and confidence, nothing could succeed. That if confidence could not be established between two such personages (Bajy Rou and Doulut Rou) what security could the latter expect from his own adherents? That even admitting their allegiance could be maintained by honors and emolument, what security could he (Doulut Rou) have against a band of assassins or an individual to whom he must be necessarily exposed almost every hour of his life? That to establish good faith and confidence was his (Bajy Rou's) object in the prosecution of which he desired that Doulut Rou would prepare a statement of his claims and requests, which would be deliberately investigated and discussed and liberally decided upon, the result of which should become binding on both parties, who would adhere thereto with the most rigid good faith and without the smallest deviations. But should any obstacles occur to the establishment of good faith and confidence the introduction of the mediation of a mutual disinterested friend might be suggested, and if acceded to by both parties, the mediatory good offices of the Company would be introduced and prosecuted in the most liberal and effectual manner. In the cordial spirit of unreserve and good-will by which I was actuated in the above communication, I begged Bapoo to remark to Emrut Rou that while measures were in agitation, not only consultation with us but even communication to us was studiously avoided, but when embarrassments, the results of those measures became insupportable, then were we applied to for relief. In proof of which I begged leave to call to the notice of Emrut Rou in hopes of amendment in future, his late conduct toward us in the affair of general reconciliation and settlement and the contest for the Angrian chiefship of Colaba, on both which occasions, while soliciting the Company's good offices he had pretended to be cordially and closely united with Nana for the preservation of the integrity of the Peshwaship against the encroachments of the Sindian party, nay, even to the extent of consulting with me on the subject of Colaba through Munshy Fukkuruddeen, in concert with Dada Gujra the relation and adherent of Nana within three or four hours of the actual arrest of both Dada Gujra and Nana on the 31st ultimo by Doulut Rou Sindia, with the assent not only of the Peshwa, but also of himself (Emrut Rou). That though Nana might deserve his fate, yet that duplicity toward us was both unbecoming and unavailing, and that had not our conduct on this occasion been conformable

to the most rigid rectitude and with due consideration toward all parties his conduct would have involved us in the most serious embarrassments ; whereas it must now operate to ensure the most implicit confidence in us.

No. 78—Uthhoff reports the arrival of Yashvantrao Holkar at Nagpur and the appointments made by the Peshwa to the Subhedary of Gujarat.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 29th January 1798.

I have the honor to acquaint you that I have received a confirmation of the arrival at Naugpore of Eswunt Rou, son of the late Tukojee Holkar, who made his escape on the attack of Malhar Rou's camp in this neighbourhood on the 14th September last, by Doulut Rou Sindia ; and of his having in company with Hurryba Holkar, another adherent of the late Malhar Rou, had a public interview with Ragojee Bhonsla. Ittojee, Eswunt Rou's brother who made his escape from Malhar Rou's camp at the same period, and has since been residing in Poona, was at the Peshwa's Durbar on the celebration of the Hindoo Festival of Bussunt on the 22nd instant.

On the 27th instant, exclusive of some inferior grants, the Subadarry of Guzerat, vacant by the arrest of Abba Selokur, was conferred by the Peshwa on his brother Chimna Appa : and the Ser Subadarry of the Kokun, vacant by the arrest of Dada Gujra, on Venaik Rou, the infant son of Emrut Rou. Keysoo Punt Dattar was at the same time, appointed Naib or Deputy to Chimna Appa ; and Vamnajee Hurry to Venaik Rou. These two Deputies were adherents of the late Ragoba. I understand that these appointments have taken place without the assent of Doulut Rou Sindia.

Gopaul Bhou, who was formerly Sindia's principal manager in the north of India and is brother to Abba and Kishna Chitnavees, is expected in Doulut Rou's camp in a day or two ; a deputation having been already sent to meet and conduct him.

No. 79—The Resident reports to the Court of Directors the arrest of Nana Fadnis by Col. Filose.

FROM—J. UTHHOFF,

TO—THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HON'BLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Poona, 29th January 1798.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that we are on as good terms as can reasonably be expected among rival foreign nations, for which we

are indebted chiefly to the rectitude and consistency of the Governor General's measures. Colonel Catielho Filose, an Italian Officer in the service of Doulut Rou Sindia, was the last mediator between Doulut Rou and Nana ; and it is a generally received opinion in this quarter, that the latter was lulled into security by his confidence in Colonel Filose, as an European. The arrangement of some requisite preliminaries having taken place, Doulut Rou, after a long cessation of personal intercourse with Nana, paid him a visit at his house in town on the 27th ultimo, when an apparent reconciliation took place between them ; but on Nana's returning the visit on the 31st he was arrested in the apartment where the meeting took place, with some of his principal attendants, the rest of his party being either killed, wounded, plundered or dispersed.

No. 80—The rising of the Chhatrapatis of Satara and Kolhapur and of the Killedar of Lohgad are reported to the G. G. by the Resident.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART, GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Pocna, 2nd February 1798

For some time past I have heard that the Raja of Kolapore or Pannella (the Head of the Malwans) was creating disturbances in the quarter of Merritch, Tasgaum, Darwaur and Shahnoor. It is now very confidently reported that the Raja of Sattara, the nominal head of the Mahratta Empire, has seized and confined the principal persons placed over him by Nana Furnavees, that he is in complete possession of the fort of Sattara and that forming a connexion with the Raja of Kolapore, who is also of the ancient Bhonsla family, he is raising troops ; Seuram Punt Tattia was nominated by the Peshwa a few days ago to the superintendence of affairs at Sattara, but it is said that the Raja will not admit him into the place. Rasta was yesterday appointed to proceed with a force of about 3,000 men, ostensibly for the settlement of affairs in the Sattara Quarter.

The only two of Nana's adherents in this quarter of any consequence that made their escape on his arrest, were Bapoo, the brother of Abba Selokur, and Doondo Pundit Nistoorah the Kelladar of Loghur ; the former is confidently said to have taken protection with the Raja of Kolapore, and the latter is putting his fort in a state of defence and making depredations in the surrounding country, supposed by some to have formed a connexion with the Rajas of Sattara and Kolapore. Anund Rou, who visited me this morning says that he understands the force, collecting under Rasta, is chiefly with a view to act eventually in favor of the Peshwa's party against Sindia

No. 81—Items of important news from Poona and the views of Nizam's agent, Anandrao, upon the situation at the Peshwa's Court are reported by the Resident in this letter. The confusion created by the arrest of Nana Fadnis is indeed striking as it destroyed all confidence among the members of the Peshwa's Government.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 5th February 1798.

Anund Rou observed, that his grand object in his present visit to me, was to obtain my assent to the payment of the thirty-five lacks of rupees to Doulut Rou Sindia, through me and to get receipts for the same, though he acknowledged that there were not at present in this quarter any funds whatever at His Highness's disposal, nor could I collect from him any satisfactory account why the Sindian Party declined granting receipts for the money paid to them. He said that both the Peshwa and Doulut Rou professed perfect good-will toward Nizam Ally Khan; but admitted, that it was a generally received opinion in this quarter that an expedition against His Highness was in agitation, to which, however, obstacles presented from the want of cordiality and confidence between the Peshwa's and Sindian parties and also between Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou. He observed, that during the late hostilities between Nizam Ally Khan and the Mahrattas, Doulut Rou had possessed himself of the district of Dasna and some of His Highness's other property in the Dehly quarters, the restoration of which was hitherto evaded, though stipulated for by the last engagements between His Highness and the Mahrattas.

In the course of conversation, the following observations were made by Anund Rou. That he thought Tippoo would not take any part whatever in the differences between the Nizam and Mahrattas, and that all His Highness's affairs, both with the Peshwa's and Sindian parties, were conducted through Sheshaudery Pundit and himself, neither Kullian Rou nor Baboo Rou having any concern whatever therein, nor, indeed, being present in this quarter. That he had not heard anything of its being in agitation to send a deputation hither from Hyderabad, but that he understood that Mahomed Azim Khan was to be deputed to Naugpore, a close connexion subsisting between the Nizam and Ragojee Bhonsla. That though Govin Pingle was to appearance under restraint at the Peshwa's palace in town, yet that both Bajy Rou and Govin Kishen consulted with him in secret.

Anund Rou scarcely ever mentioned the name of Nana, nor said anything in his favour, and on my occasionally asking whether certain circumstances were likely to operate to Nana's advantage, he observed that he was a prisoner and that the grand object of all parties was first

to take care of themselves. I do not infer from this that the Nizam is indifferent toward Nana, but rather think that it is a point on which Anund Rou was not furnished with instructions, and which he was at a loss how to treat.

Among the ideas generally entertained in this quarter, are the following. That Bajy Rou wants to get rid of Emrut Rou from all concern in governmental affairs, that Emrut Rou wants to get rid of Govin Kishen, and that the Sindian Party want to get rid of both and to encroach on Kassi Rou Holkar.

Bapoo Chitnavees informs me in confidence that it is settled to cede to Doulut Rou Sindia the districts lately in the possession of Nana and Purseram Bhow, with one fort, and that the Peshwa's party have been compelled to acquiesce in an expedition against the Nizam, toward which Govin Kishen has been instrumental. This is corroborated by general appearance and persuasion in these quarters with the addition that the force collecting here, ostensibly to act against the Rajahs of Sattara and Kolapore, is really intended to be employed against the Nizam, and that Doulut Rou has sent for reinforcements from Hindoostan and has ordered a body of troops to watch the motions of the Nizam and Ragojee Bhonsla in the Bopaul quarter, and is making extensive levies.

I understand that it is expected to raise a contribution of between fifty and sixty lacks of rupees from the state prisoners at the Peshwa's palace in town, of which Trimbuk Rou Purchora has already agreed to pay seven.

On the 3rd instant, a salute was fired in Sindia's camp, for the conquest of Colaba

I am just advised by Colonel Palmer of his being at Bhilsa the 24th ultimo.

No. 82—This is another important communication by the Resident, which graphically narrates the troubles of the Peshwa's and the Sindian parties. The Peshwaship was in utmost derangement, without cash, credit, force, or confidence in the allegiance of any of the great chieftains, civil officers or troops. It looks as though the Peshwa's Govt. was hastening to its doom.

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 9th February 1798

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Bapoo Chitnavees paid me a visit on the 8th instant, in the afternoon with an official communication from the Peshwa and Emrut Rou to the following purport. That considering the Company and the Peshwa as one, they had in the way of friendship to impart to me that at the meeting of the preceding day, after a great deal of altercation on the requisitions of

Doulut Rou Sindia, it had been settled to cede to him a country yielding twelve laks of rupees annual revenue, and one fort, including the late possessions of Nana Furnavees and Parsuram Bhow: that the contributions from the state prisoners were to be equally divided between the Peshwa's and Sindian parties; and that further an expedition had been determined on against the Nizam for the recovery of the country which had been ceded by the convention of Kurdlah and subsequently restored to His Highness, that country being considered as the Peshwa's property, since His Highness had not executed his part of the engagements by which that country was to be restored to him, and that besides there were some pecuniary claims against His Highness and some claims on the part of the King of Delhi. With acknowledgments for the friendliness of the communication, I expressed my hope that the settlement with the Sindian party would be promotive of the welfare of the Peshwaship and my regret at the prospect afforded by the projected expedition of an interruption of that friendship between the three allies, which had subsisted for so many years to their mutual advantage; with an intimation, that although the Company were by no means anxious to interfere in the affairs of their neighbours, yet, if our mediatory good offices could operate to compose the differences of our two friends, they would be introduced with pleasure. I enquired the state of the affairs of the Peshwaship which Bapoo admitted to be in the utmost derangement, without cash, credit, force or confidence in the allegiance of any of the great chieftains, civil officers or troops. I intimated that it seemed advisable that the Peshwa should first settle his own domestic affairs on a respectable footing, for that if while he was at his own palace in Poona universally acknowledged as the head of the Mahratta Empire and at peace with all, his affairs were deranged, they would be infinitely more so when engaged against a foreign enemy; that war was a very weighty consideration and ought not to be undertaken on light grounds; and that although an alluring prospect might be held out of conquests from the Nizam, yet that the fate of war was uncertain, and while the Peshwa and Sindia were weakening themselves by their contest with His Highness, Ragojee Bhonsla and Tippoo might avail themselves of the opportunity for their own aggrandizement at the expense of the Peshwa's and Sindian parties. Bapoo admitted the advisableness of the attention of the Peshwa's party being first directed to the settlement of their own affairs, but frankly acknowledged that the Sindian party had insisted upon the expedition against the Nizam, which left them without remedy. I endeavoured to dissuade the Peshwa from the projected expedition by every argument that occurred to me short of commitment of giving offence to the Sindian party. Bapoo observed, that if the Nizam would satisfy the claims abovementioned, war might be avoided; but he seemed to think the Sindian party bent upon hostilities at all events and that the Nizam could not possibly accede to their exorbitant demands.

Bapoo next with much earnestness introduced a personal application from Emrut Rou to be furnished by the Company with complete apparatus for a Battalion of native Infantry, which was forming for his service under the command of Mr Tone, who he observed, was an Englishman, and that indeed he should consider the Battalion as belonging to the Company. *With assurances of my perfect goodwill both official and personal to comply with every wish of Emrut Rou's, I lamented that instead of preferring some friendly request with which I could instantly comply without impropriety, he should prefer one which militated against our general principles of action ; and that to acquiesce in his wishes on the present occasion would be to injure our friend and ally the Nizam on a point not trivial, nor in a small degree , and that were military apparatus for a single Battalion to be supplied by the Company, it would be magnified by rumour into the most unbounded supplies and would be fomenting those dissensions which, we were on every account so anxious to allay, and would instill into both parties a want of confidence in the sincerity of those principles of conciliation which we professed.*

Mr Tone was formerly the Second Officer with Mr. Boyd with whom he proceeded to Bombay in December last, and is lately returned hither, with two young Officers, named Douglas and Doolan Four or five other European Officers also have lately joined Sindia's Infantry here from the north of India the majority of whom are British subjects.

Rouba, the Agent here of Govin Rou Guykewar, acquaints me that though he has paid the Peshwa's and Sindian parties to within fifteen laks of rupees of the whole of their present demands upon his master, yet that he is subjected to the embarrassment, mortification and disgrace of Dhurna by the latter, and that the former have earnestly pressed him for the further immediate payment of twenty laks of rupees on account, threatening in the event of refusal to waive the ratification of the late modified settlement of accounts, in addition to which they require a body of Govin Rou's troops to assist in the projected expedition against the Nizam Rouba asks my friendly advice for his guidance amidst these accumulated embarrassments I recommended to him to settle as well as he can with the Peshwa's and Sindian parties by pecuniary payments and without offence to either to steer clear, if possible, of any further involution of interests with them, and to attend to the internal improvement of the Guykewar possessions

On the 5th instant, Dada Gujra and Bujaba Serolekur, two of Nana's principal adherents were removed from Sindia's camp to Poona, preparatory, as it is said, to their liberation, for which the former is to pay five laks of rupees and the latter about one lak.

While the injustice and violence of the present conduct of the Peshwa's and Sindian parties toward the Nizam may rationally excite indignation, it is not unworthy to remark that the engagements the breach of which is

now in question, were formed but a very short time ago on the basis of the most consummate perfidy on the part of the Court of Hyderabad toward the Government of Chimna Appa, under the Ministry of Pursaram Bhow and the Sindian Ministry of Balloo Tantea who, a few months before had liberated Azim-ul-Omrah from a prison, retribution for which perfidy on the grand scale of ethics, seems not a fit subject for regret, whatever may be thought of the means by which it threatens to be effected; and philanthropy will also fondly cherish the idea that the heinous offences of the Sindian Party will in due time meet with due retribution.

Amidst the iniquity, inconsistency and folly that pervade the conduct of the Peshwa's and Sindian parties, I will not presume to vouch for the sincerity of the former in their communication to me of the settlement with Doulut Rou and the projected expedition against the Nizam, though it is somewhat corroborated by general appearance and persuasion here. Possibly they may be themselves deceived by the Sindian party. Even the approaching release of Nana, though not within the bounds of probability, scarcely of possibility, is among the rumours of this distracted quarter.

My best endeavours shall not be wanting to protract at least, if not avert, hostilities between the Mahrattas and the Nizam in order to afford time for the receipt of your instructions and for the operation of the chapter of accidents in His Highness's favor.

On the 8th instant, Doulut Rou Sindia honoured Bhow Bukshy with a visit of reconciliation, which has been brought about through the mediation of Narrain Rou Bukshy.

No. 83—The marriage of Doulatrao Sindia with the daughter of Sarjerao Ghatge is announced.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 12th February 1798.

Two marriages are now celebrating in Sindia's camp in this neighbourhood, one of Doulut Rou himself, with the daughter, named Baijabai, of Serjajee Ghautky, one of his most confidential Ministers; the other, of Eswunt Rou Dubbarra, with the daughter of Ballabyhe, widow of the late Larrojee Deysmookh, and daughter of the late Mhadjee Sindia.

It is pretended that Bhow Bukshy is restored to favor and to the office of Dewan of the Sindian chiefship, but present appearances do not indicate his enjoying any material influence in the Sindian affairs. Gopaul Bhow or Narrain Rou Bukshy are talked of for the command of a force destined to act against the Nizam, and Colonel Filose is under orders to

proceed with his corps against the Raja of Kolapore or Pannella, who has of late been committing disturbances in the quarter of Tasgaum, Merritch,,Darwaur and Shahnoor.

I hear from a quarter of considerable credibility, that to the country of twelve laks of rupees annual revenue, which is to be ceded by the Peshwa to Doulut Rou Sindia, the latter now requires eight lacs in addition, and that he is making further encroachments on the Peshwa's party.

I have the honor to enclose copy of my letter of this date to the Assistant at Hyderabad and to be, with the highest respect &c

No. 84—The Resident ably discusses in this communication the good and evil effects of complying with an application from the Peshwa, the Nizam or other Indian powers for a supply of military stores. It is these considerations which ultimately enabled Lord Wellesley to lay down a definite policy of subsidiary alliances

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 19th February 1798

On the evening of the 18th instant, Sindia's guards were removed from the Peshwa's palace in town, and their place supplied by the troops under the command of Abba Kalleh, one of the Peshwa's officers. I cannot at present presume to develop the motives and objects of this measure, which seems to have been very sudden and unexpected, for the relief of the guards, usual on the new moon, had taken place the same morning. The following explanation is conveyed to me through the interested channel of one of Sindia's officers that the removal was by the particular desire of the Peshwa, that the original business of Sindia's guards at the palace having been as a protection against the machinations of Nana Furnavees and that apprehension being now removed, the guards in question became no longer necessary.

Doulut Rou has been for some days engaged in the celebration of his marriage with the daughter of Serjajee Ghautky, on which occasion the Peshwa two days ago prepared an entertainment for him at one of his gardens in this neighbourhood, from which Doulut Rou excused himself rather abruptly after all the preparations were ready; and on Emrut Rou lately signifying to Doulut Rou that he was desirous of paying him a visit on business, the latter desired it might be deferred till after the celebration of his marriage. The expences attending the marriage are said to be to the amount of near twenty laks of rupees, and a good deal of oppression has been exercised towards many of the inhabitants of this quarter in collecting the articles required on the occasion

It is said that the state prisoners in this quarter have been of late treated with some severity for the purpose of extorting money from them ; and it is rumoured that Nana will be sent in confinement to a hill fort.

Ragojee Bhonsla left Naugpore on the 5th instant on his journey to Chanda. There has been of late an affray between Wittul Pundit and Mahommed Ameen Khan, one of Ragojee Bhonsla's principal officers.

I cannot discern that the late revolution at Luknow has made any particular impression on the Peshwa's and Sindian parties here.

The subject of the supply of military stores to the country powers doubtless involves very awkward and delicate circumstances, the discussion of which however unpleasant cannot well be dispensed with, which will, I trust, be admitted in palliation of the freedom of the following reflections. To comply with the application of the Peshwa's party might be considered, in some degree, a violation of our professions and principles of action ; and would be likely to occasion serious dissatisfaction on the part of the Nizam and the Sindian party toward both us and the Peshwa's party. On the other hand there are many important points, which it would be highly desirable to us to carry with the Peshwa's party and which would in all probability be greatly promoted by the supply of military stores in question, and by no other means whatever at present. Among those points are the following : The cession to us of part of Guzerat specified in the report of the Surat Committee of the 25th August last. The removal of the two Mahratta Chouteas from Surat. The establishment of a Dauk between Poona and Bombay and, between the latter place and Surat. Commercial privileges or at least freedom of trade in the Mahratta Country, particularly in the piece goods and cotton of Guzerat.

Considering how often we have complied to a great extent with the applications of the Nizam on this point, it may be somewhat awkward and delicate to reject the application of the Peshwa's party, and should he call upon for an explanation of our conduct in such rejection, I beg to submit to you, Hon'ble Sir, how far the following circumstances may be applicable to our justification. As a return for the friendly and liberal conduct of the Nizam in allowing us to purchase horses for our cavalry within His Highness's territories, and to post a Dauk throughout the whole extent of his country : whereas to supply the Peshwa's party with military stores, would be to return His Highness's friendship and liberality by an act of enmity, since the Peshwa's party have officially announced to us that they are on the very point of proceeding to war with His Highness (the Nizam). If our object in furnishing military stores to the Nizam has really been for the sole purpose of strengthening His Highness against his only formidable opponent the Mahrattas, it is such as we of course cannot avow to the Peshwa's party and is, I am sorry to say, unworthy of us, as a clandestine and unwarrantable act, unavailing in its object against the Mahrattas, and detrimental to us in its effect, as strengthening

Mr. Raymond whose power is a constant source of, at least, uneasiness and solicitude to us ; and as eventually involving dissatisfaction to the Mahrattas or embarrassing discussions between them and us

Should it be determined to acquiesce in the application of the Peshwa's party for a supply of military stores, it may perhaps, be deemed advisable to put it on the footing of a return for their friendly and liberal conduct towards us in the accomplishment of some or all of our objects above-mentioned, and though such an explanation may not reconcile the Nizam or the Sindian party to the measure, yet may our conduct be justifiable on the principle that it is not a violation of engagement, that in a similar case their conduct would undoubtedly not be more conciliating towards us ; and that it is the only mode by which we could attain certain objects highly desirable to us, lamenting at the same time that it should chance to involve certain circumstances productive of inconvenience or evil to the Nizam or the Sindian party

It may not be amiss to advert to the circumstance that when it is understood that military stores are in great demand among the native powers of India, they will probably be brought out in abundance by foreign vessels, if not also illicitly under our own flag

By a pair of my Hirkarras just come in from Sattara, Kolapore and Tasgaum, I learn that that part of the country is in a very distracted state the particulars of which shall be communicated by next post

P S—By letters from Colonel Palmer, I learn that he was on the 11th instant two marches on this side of the Nurbudda, that he expected to reach Burhaunpore on the 19th instant and Poona by the 25th of next month.

No. 85—The Resident reports the withdrawal of Sindia's guards from the Peshwa's palace

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 23rd February 1798

On the 20th instant the major part of Doulut Rou Sindia's troops, attached to Baboo Rou Angria on the late expedition against Colaba, returned hither with Jey Sing and Mannajee, the infant son of the late Ragojee Angria.

On the 21st a deputation at the head of which was Raijee Patell paid me a visit with an invitation from Doulut Rou Sindia to be present at the celebration of his nuptials with the daughter of Serjajee Ghautky on the 24th instant, which I accepted

It has been intimated to me through a channel of credibility that in addition to the concessions already made by the Peshwa to Doulut Rou Sindia, the latter now requires a district of eight laks of rupees annual revenue, two forts and twenty-three laks of rupees in ready money; the latter nominally for the expences of the celebration of his marriage. I also learn from the same quarter that Moroba Furnavees is expected to be established in the Peshwa's ministry.

The following is the best account that I have yet been able to collect of the removal of Sindia's guards from the Peshwa's palace in town. That it being stipulated for in the engagements between the Peshwa and Doulut Rou and there being now in this quarter no force or party in the least formidable to them, they were both prepared for the measure when the guards in question having misbehaved towards some parties going in procession near the palace in celebration of their marriages, and toward some women of the palace, the Peshwa much offended thereat required of Doulut Rou, in very pressing terms, that the guards should be immediately withdrawn, for which orders were in consequence instantly issued.

No. 86—The Resident describes his visit to Daulat Rao Sindia at the ceremony of his marriage and communicates to the Governor General the rumoured plans of the Peshwa and Sindia of an expedition against the Nizam.

FROM—J. UTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 2nd March 1798.

On my visit to Doulut Rou Sindia on the 26th ultimo I found him attended by Serjajee Ghautky, the father of his new wife, Gopaul Bhow, Bannajee Huzra, Jadoo Rou Bhasker, Atmaram Pagnavees, Bikram Cheyla and some other persons of less note. Bhow Bukshy received me at the entrance of the tents. I assured Doulut Rou of my congratulations on his marriage accompanied by the complimentary presents of cloths usual on such occasions, which, with enquiries after his health and friendly observations on the good understanding that had so long and so happily subsisted between the Company and the Sindian chiefship, comprised everything material that passed at this meeting, in which Doulut Rou took but little part, seeming almost wholly absorbed in his own self-importance or labouring under the lassitude of fatigue or voluptuousness. While Bhow Bukshy was reconducting me to my pallankeen, I observed to him with acknowledgments for the part he had taken in establishing the good understanding that had so long and so happily subsisted between the Company and the Mahrattas, that to the enlightened judgment of such well-wishers of both states many circumstances must occur pregnant

with mutual benefit, though my present visit had not admitted of a favorable opening for discussing them. He assured me of his being favorably disposed to exert himself for the promotion of the good understanding subsisting between the Company and the Sindian chiefship, of which as occasions offer, I shall endeavour to avail myself under your sanction and instructions, for composing the differences between the Nizam and the Mahrattas, and alleviating the sufferings of the state prisoners particularly Nana.

On the 1st instant I received a visit from Anund Rou, one of the Nizam's agents at this Court, who acquainted me, that on the preceding day Seshaudery Pundit and himself had proceeded to the Peshwa's palace without invitation for the purpose of investigating and ascertaining the disposition of the Durbar toward the Nizam under the threatening appearances, among other circumstances, of Amrut Rou's entering his tents. That they could not obtain an immediate audience, but on sending a message that they were desirous of seeing the Peshwa on business, it was intimated to them that he was about to proceed to one of his gardens in the neighbourhood where he would give them a meeting. On proceeding thither accordingly they were introduced to Emrut Rou and Govin Kishen who, after some indifferent conversation observed, that it was advisable that the Nizam should restore the country he had wrested from the Peshwa's or at least the half thereof, meaning the Kurdlah cessions that had been lately restored to His Highness. On enquiring on what principle this requisition was made and observing that the country in question was ceded to His Highness by a solemn deed and with the full assent of the Peshwa, Doulut Rou Sindia and all the chiefs concerned therein, Emrut Rou and Govin Kishen replied that notwithstanding what they said, such was the pleasure of the Peshwa. The Peshwa soon after joined them and enquired of Emrut Rou and Govin Kishen whether they had made known his pleasure to Sheshaudery Pundit and Anund Rou, to which they replied in the affirmative. His Highness's agents then observed that if such were the disposition of the Poona Durbar their Master might find it advisable to renounce his connexion with the Peshwa and to cultivate one with Doulut Rou Sindia, and that it was their intention to pay a visit to Doulut Rou on the ensuing day. In the general conversation that passed between Anund Rou and me nothing material occurred worthy your notice, except that he was strongly impressed with the idea that an expedition against the Nizam was in agitation here, which indeed, he said, Emrut Rou had not scrupled to avow to him was the object of his entering his tents, adding that the projected visit to Sindia might possibly throw some new light on the subject and that the distractions in this quarter and the good understanding that subsisted between the Nizam and Ragojee Bhonsla presented some prospect of security to His Highness. Anund Rou observed, that he was instructed by Ragotim Rou to request my good offices to obtain about ten thousand musket flints and some paper for ball cartridges, with which

I civilly waived having anything to do. I thanked Anund Rou for the friendliness of his communications, of which I requested a continuance, which he promised me ; adding, that he had received instructions from the Court of Hyderabad to communicate with me freely on everything that might occur.

I have intelligence from Naugpore that on the 17th ultimo, Ragojee Bhonsla made his first march toward Chanda. I also learn that a guard has been placed by the Raja over both Eswunt Rou and Hurryba Holkar, the cause of which I have not yet been able to ascertain. I have reason to think that Kassi Rou Holkar applied to Ragojee Bhonsla some time ago to send Eswunt Rou hither, but it does not yet appear that this has any connexion with his being put under restraint at Naugpore.

Amidst the distractions here I must confess myself at a loss to form a clear, comprehensive opinion of the present state of affairs in this quarter and its probable influence upon futurity. On the one hand, the Sindian party has doubtless considerable military force with the claims and resources of the Peshwaship (to say nothing in this place of the King Shah Allum) almost entirely at its devotion, actuated by principles, habits and designs of the most imperious and insatiable nature. On the other hand, the present and probably increasing distress for cash cramps the operations both of the Sindian and Peshwa's parties which, and the little respectability of character or conduct among them, involve probable dissensions and weakness, further promoted by the serious disturbances created by the Rajah of Kolapore and the conduct of the Rajah of Sattara and the commanders of many other forts in the Mahratta Empire. The force of the Nizam, particularly if confederated with Ragojee Bhonsla, forms some curb on the Peshwa's and Sindian parties.

The following are among the motives and objects conjectured to have influenced the measure of Emrut Rou's entering his tents in this neighbourhood on the 26th ultimo :— a projected expedition against the Nizam or the Rajah of Kolapore or both ; or alarming them into an acquiescence in the views of the Peshwa, of the Sindian parties by the apprehension of such an expedition from the threatening appearances in this quarter ; To assemble the forces of the Peshwa for muster and in promotion of the strength and respectability of the government to be exerted eventually against the Nizam, the Rajah of Kolapore or the Sindian party ; an intrigue on the part of the Peshwa, Doulut Rou Sindia or Govin Kishen, jointly or individually, to remove Emrut Rou from the management of the Peshwa's affairs in which he has of late had considerable influence.. Possibly Emrut Rou may remain encamped in this neighbourhood until the setting in of the rainy season and then take up his residence in the city ; or he may make an excursion to some pagodas at no great distance as some kind of salvo for his credit in entering his tents. He has not yet a thousand men encamped with him. There is a rumour that the Peshwa also will enter his tents ere long. The latter appears to pay but very

little attention to Governmental affairs and spends a considerable part of his time in pleasurable excursions to gardens in this neighbourhood

It seems probable that no plan of operations is yet determined on by the Peshwa's and Sindian parties, or if actually determined on that the distractions of this quarter are very likely to obstruct its execution

Colonel Palmer advises me that he expected to proceed on his journey to Poona from Burhaunpore on the 21st ultimo.

No. 87—Uthhoff reports that the Peshwa and Sindia were planning expeditions against the Nizam and the Raja of Kolhapur, but that they were not likely to be executed

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 5th March 1798

Shesaudry Pundit and Anund Rou, the Agents at this Court of the Nizam, advise me that at their meeting with Doulut Rou Sindia on the 1st instant, he assured them that it was his wish and intention to preserve the good understanding between His Highness and the Mahrattas, and that though Emrut Rou had entered his tents yet he (Doulut Rou) would take means to dissuade the Peshwa from acting hostilely toward His Highness. His Highness's agents however, seem to consider this assurance as an attempt to lull His Highness into security and to be but a very flimsy veil to the real designs of the Peshwa's and Sindian parties.

On the evening of the 3rd instant, Doulut Rou Sindia issued orders for two of Colonel Filose's Battalions, with four guns, to be ready to march the ensuing day, when they accordingly proceeded to the distance of about three miles from the present cantonments of Sindia's army, where more troops are collecting Their avowed object is the chastisement of the Raja of Kolapore, who as already advised, has been of late committing great depredations in the quarter of Tasgaum, Merritch and Darwaur There is now a rumour here that he has taken possession of Hoobly, about twelve miles from Darwaur, a place of no strength, but of very considerable trade and consequent wealth The direction in which Sindia's troops have moved happens to be equally convenient for proceeding either against the Nizam or the Raja of Kolapore, but two or three more marches will clearly evince their real destination.

It is confidently mentioned in Sindia's camp that expeditions are in agitation against both the Nizam and the Raja of Kolapore, and the most prevalent opinion as far as I can collect it seems to be, that Doulut Rou himself taking the Peshwa with him will proceed against the Nizam

with Mr. Dugeon's Brigade, and that Gopaul Bhow or Narrain Rou Bukshy, with Mr. Filose's Brigade, will accompany Emrut Rou against the Raja of Kolapore. But I am, I must confess, much inclined to think that no well defined plan of operations is yet determined on ; or if actually determined on, that it is likely to be obstructed by the distractions of the Peshwa's and Sindian parties and their distress for cash.

No. 88—The arrest of Narayanrao Bakshy by Deulatrao Sindia and his removal to the fort of Ahmednagar are reported in this letter.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.,

Poona, 9th March 1798.

On the 6th instant Narrain Rou Bukshy was put under arrest by Doulut Rou Sindia and he has been since sent under a guard to the fort of Ahmednugger. This measure appears to have been adopted with the counsel of Gopaul Bhow, Bannajee Huzra, Serjajee Ghautky, Jadoo Rou Bhasker, Fukkeerjee Gaurweh and Bikram Cheyla. Narrain Rou Bukshy is the son of Jeajee Bukshy and nephew of Jugga Bapoo, one of Doulut Rou's principal commanders in the north of India. He was a young man and considered to be a personal favorite of Doulut Rou's, and his office here was Bukshy of the Cavalry, whose business with the Durbar, particularly of a pecuniary nature, was carried on through him, with whom the cavalry were said to be well satisfied from the conciliation of his manners, especially in conniving at promoting and participating in their speculation. The enormity of his speculation is adduced as the ostensible cause of his arrest ; though there is a rumour that he was detected in some treasonable plot in favor of Nana. His arrest is, perhaps, chiefly ascribable to the ambition, avarice, jealousy and envy of his Durbar rivals. He and Bhow Bukshy were since the arrest of Balloo Tantea, at the head of the Sinovee party in the Sindian chiefship. Bhow Bukshy seems to be under alarm and there is some appearance of the ascending of the Bramin party under Gopaul Bhow and Jadoo Rou Bhasker, the former of whom is talked of as Narrain Rou's successor in the office of Bukshy of Cavalry ; and even the restoration of his brother Abba Chitnavees as Prime Minister and the release of Nana are among the rumours of this quarter. Devjee Golih Devji, an old Mahratta officer of some distinction, who has of late attached himself closely to Narrain Rou Bukshy, was arrested with him, together with many others of his inferior adherents. It is supposed that Jugga Bapoo will share the fate of his nephew Narrain Rou Bukshy. For two days subsequent to Narrain Rou's arrest, Doulut Rou stopped all Dauks except his own between Poona and the north of India.

Ragojee Bhonsla was on the 23rd ultimo at Bhysena, about 60 miles to the southward of Naugpore, on his way to Chanda. There is something mysterious which I cannot just now accurately develop, respecting Eswunt Rou Holkar, the brother of the late Malhar Rou and Hurryba Holkar, an adherent of that party. The former is said to have taken leave privately of Ragojee Bhonsla on his commencing his march to Chanda, when Hurryba was delivered up to him. A rumour was shortly after circulated that the two Holkars had absconded and the last accounts mention that they had been apprehended and brought back to Naugpore.

Some skirmishes are said to have of late taken place between the troops of the Raja of Kolapore and those of Doonda Punt Gokly, the Peshwa's officer on the southern frontier of the Mahratta Empire; and also between the former and those of Serjajee Ghautky, to whom Doulut Rou Sindia has entrusted the management of Pursaram Bhow's possessions lately ceded to him.

On the 7th instant, Kassi Rou Holkar attended the Peshwa's Durbar on the celebration of the Hindoo festival of Hooly, from which Doulut Rou Sindia excused himself on some pretence having reference to his late marriage.

Colonel Palmer was on the 26th ultimo about 250 miles to the N. E. of Poona.

Sheshaudery Pundit and Anund Rou advise me that Jadoo Rou Bhasker, one of Doulut Rou Sindia's principal ministers, with professions of Doulut Rou's disposition to maintain the good understanding between the Mahrattas and the Nizam observes to them that the Peshwa expresses great anxiety to recover the Kurdla cessions, which he affects to consider as his patrimony.

It is confidently reported that Narrain Rou Bukshy, on learning that he was to be sent to the fort of Ahmednuggur, made an attempt on his life, the accomplishment of which was prevented by the timely interposition of those who were near him. Great intercession has been made in his favor, particularly by the females of the Sindian family, to which it was said that Doulut Rou had yielded to the extent of issuing orders for the party attending Narrain Rou to halt, but my latest intelligence indicates, that not only Narrain Rou Bukshy, but Balloo Tantea and Doandebau also, who have hitherto been at Jamgaum, will now be confined in the fort of Ahmednuggur. Several of Doulut Rou Sindia's commanders, particularly of the cavalry, evince since Narrain Rou's arrest considerable dissatisfaction and distrust.

On the evening of the 7th instant, I received a message that Bapoo Chitnavees and Luximun Punt Nuttoo would pay me a visit the ensuing morning with a communication on the part of the Peshwa and Emrut Rou. The next morning it was intimated to me that Bapoo having been summoned to attend Emrut Rou, his visit to me must be deferred till the 9th, when

I received another message from him that in consequence of considerable alarm in Poona and in the neighbouring camps, he was under the necessity of attending the Peshwa and Emrut Rou, which would prevent his waiting on me till the ensuing day. That there has been alarm in this quarter this morning is certain; though to the period of my writing I have not been able satisfactorily to ascertain the cause thereof. Two rumours have been in circulation, one, the arrest of Doulut Rou Sindia; and the other, the arrest of Emrut Rou. I have ascertained that the latter is unfounded; and that Doulut Rou is gone on a hunting party.

Through private channels, I am informed, that the object of Bapoo's visit was to consult me on the general state of affairs here and the rumours of Doulut Rou Sindia's intention to depose Bajy Rou.

I learn, though a channel of considerable credibility, that Doulut Rou Sindia has issued orders for the arrest of both Lukwa Dada and Jugga Bapoo, two of his principal officers in the north of India, and that the chief management of his affairs in that quarter is to be vested in Ambajee Ingly.

It must be acknowledged that boldness and decision are conspicuous in the measure of the Sindian party, but I must confess that I can discern but little, if any, greatness or goodness in any of them.

The distractions of this quarter seem to be at as high a pitch at least as ever.

Emrut Rou has this day moved his camp, ostensibly for the convenience of water though there is an idea that it is from distrust of Doulut Rou Sindia. He is still within a mile of the city.

By a man of mine this instant come in from Jowla, about 22 coss hence, I learn that the party escorting Narrain Rou Bukshy proceeded from that place this morning at 5 toward Ahmednuggur.

No. 89—Increasing tension between the Peshwa and his brother Amritrao is reported in this letter.

FROM—J. UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 12th March 1798.

The alarm in this quarter on the 9th instant, mentioned in my last address, originated in Doulut Rou Sindia's having on his hunting excursion, proceeded rather nearer to Emrut Rou's camp than had been expected, which put the cavalry pickets of the latter to flight.

On the 4th instant Colonel Palmer was at Chaleesgaum, about 180 miles to the n.e. of Poona.

Intelligence has reached me of the arrival of Narrian Rou Bukshy at Jamgaum on his way to Amhednuggur, and of preparations being on foot at that place for the removal of Baloo Tantea to Ahmednuggur, to which the latter is said to have evinced much repugnance.

On the 10th instant, an entertainment at which Doulut Rou Sindia was present, was given to Bajy Rou, Chimna Appa and Emrut Rou, by Serjajee Ghautky, the father of Doulut Rou's new wife

It would afford me infinite gratification to avail myself of any opening that may occur, to be the instrument of carrying into execution your liberal disposition in favour of Nana. No opening has yet offered, nor does it at present seem likely that any should during the short period that I am to be honoured with the charge of this Residency.

On the 11th instant Gopaul Rou Munshy, who you will recollect to have been frequently mentioned in the course of my correspondence, signified by note, his wish to have a meeting with Meer Fukkuruddeen, the Munshy of this Residency, who accordingly with my assent had an interview with him, when Gopaul Rou intimated to him that it was the desire of both Bajy Rou and Govin Kishn that he (Gopaul Rou) should be the channel of intercourse between the Durbar and this Residency I shall take the requisite measures for ascertaining Bajy Rou's sentiments on this point and precluding any embarrassment to Colonel Palmer on his approaching assumption of this Residency It seems to me a strong corroboration of what I have long had reason to suspect and have duly reported to you, Honourable Sir, that implicit confidence and cordiality do not subsist between Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou The latter has since the arrest of Nana Furnavees on the 31st of December last been the channel of intercourse between the Peshwa and this Residency, in which he has employed Bapoo Chitnavees, one of his principal adherents

No. 90—Uthoff reports his communication to the Peshwa asking for a settlement of all pending points between him and the Residency, in order that he may be able to hand over a clean charge to Colonel Palmer, his successor.

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 16th March 1798

On the 14th instant I received a visit from Anund Rou, one of the Nizam's agents at this Court, who acquainted me that his Court were desirous of ascertaining in writing the sentiments and designs of the Peshwa's and Sindian parties on the point in question He also observed that affairs in this quarter were now somewhat altered, and that though

Emrut Rou had been fifteen days in his tents, yet that he had collected but a very small body of troops, whom he could not pay. That dissensions existed between Bajy Rou and Emrut Rou, and that indeed the projected expedition against the Nizam seemed now in suspense; and there was reason to think that Emrut Rou's operations would be confined to a religious excursion to some pagodas in this neighbourhood. Anund Rou however, intimated to me that the inimical professions and military preparations of the Peshwa's and Sindian parties against the Nizam seemed to render it advisable for His Highness to put himself in a state of defence in the prosecution of which, it was in agitation to assemble an army in the Hyderabad quarter under Secunder Jah at the close of the present month of Ramzan. Anund Rou gave me the following elucidation of the mysterious circumstances relative to Eswunt Rou and Hurryba Holkar in the Naugpore quarter. That they had taken leave of Ragojee Bhonsla on the eve of his commencing his journey to Chanda, with an intention of proceeding to join Kassi Rou Holkar who had given them assurances of protection and favour, and that having advanced a few coss from Naugpore, they fell in with a body of Ragojee Bhonsla's troops, who taking them (the Holkars) for fugitives or pretending to do so, attacked and plundered them and conveyed them in confinement to Naugpore; at which Ragojee Bhonsla is said to have expressed much concern. Anund Rou said not a syllable respecting the payment from the Nizam to Doulut Rou Sindia which has been for some time in agitation, though the shroffs here assure me that bills of exchange on Poona to the amount of ten lacs of rupees on this account, have lately been negotiated at Hyderabad through Roshun Aly, in which Captain Kirkpatrick's name is used and which are made payable to me.

I have intelligence that Ragojee Bhonsla arrived at Chanda on the 27th ultimo.

On the 14th instant it was intimated to me that Gopaul Rou Munshy was near the Residency in disguise and that he wished to deliver a message to me in private from Bajy Rou. A private interview in consequence took place, when after the most friendly professions of attachment toward the Company on the part of Bajy Rou founded on the close connexion that subsisted between us and his late father Ragonant Rou and the good understanding that had ever since subsisted between us and the Mahrattas, he said that the object of his present visit was to establish a confidential channel of intercourse between Bajy Rou and this Residency, with which he had been entrusted by Bajy Rou. (I replied) I would send to him in a secret manner Meer Fukkeruddeen, Munshy of this Residency, or some other person in my confidence at some period that would be fixed on by him (Gopaul Rou). I desired Gopaul Rou to assure Bajy Rou of the good-will toward him of my government and myself, and that both duty and inclination led me to assent readily to his requisition of sending Fukkeruddeen to wait on him at any time he might be pleased to appoint.

Gopaul Rou seemed desirous to confine his communications to friendly professions on the part of Bajy Rou and his wish to see a confidential person from me. In answer however to my queries, he made the following observations. That to outward appearance, a good understanding subsisted among Bajy Rou, Emrut Rou and Doulut Rou Sindia. That Bajy Rou was Master and Doulut Rou servant, though it must be admitted that those relations were not religiously observed between them on all occasions; and that indeed experience proved that in Indian politics implicit confidence and cordiality were not to be expected even among brothers. That Govin Kishen had devoted himself to Bajy Rou ever since his reinstatement in the Peshwaship, and that he enjoyed his implicit confidence. That the projected expedition against the Nizam was not at the suggestion of Bajy Rou but of Doulut Rou Sindia, Bajy Rou considering his first grand object to be the settlement of his government and country. Gopaul Rou corroborated the persuasion that now prevails in this quarter, that Emrut Rou would not be employed against the Nizam though it seemed likely, he said, that some expedition would be undertaken against the Raja of Kolapore, who was creating considerable disturbances in the quarter of Tasgaum, Merritch, Darwaur and Hoobbly. I endeavoured through Gopaul Rou to inculcate strongly to Bajy Rou the advisableness of employing himself in the settlement of his government and country without molesting the Nizam or any other of his neighbours.

As frequently mentioned in the course of my correspondence, I have been for some time past, endeavouring to effect the settlement of all points now in suspense between the Durbar and this Residency for the purpose of delivering over charge to Colonel Palmer, on his approaching arrival here, with as little encumbrance or embarrassment as possible. My efforts, through Bapoo Chitnavees proving ineffectual, I requested, by note that the Peshwa would appoint a time for Meer Fukkuruddeen, the Munshy of this Residency, to wait on him with a message from me. After some delay the afternoon of the 14th instant was appointed, when Meer Fukkuruddeen waited on him in public Durbar and then proceeded with *him to an inner apartment, in company with Govin Kishen and Bapoo Chitnavees*. The Munshy then agreeably to my instructions delivered to him a message from me to the following purport. That it was the duty of the Company's Resident at this Durbar to use every effort in his power to cement and improve the good understanding between the two states, in which I also felt myself personally interested from my twelve years' residence here with Sir Charles Malet. That I had it much at heart that certain points should have been effected during my residence here, for instance, a reconciliation and settlement of parties in the Mahratta Empire, an amicable adjustment of differences between the Mahrattas and Nizam Ally Khan, and the alleviation of the sufferings of Nana Furnavees; for whatever the conduct of the latter might have been in other respects, it had at least been meritorious in cementing for a series of years the good

understanding between us and the Mahrattas, which made us feel an interest in his welfare. That for the promotion of these desirable objects my good offices had, agreeably to your orders, been ever ready and the accomplishment thereof would have been a high honor and gratification to me. That unhappily accidents had hitherto occurred in prevention; but that the accomplishment thereof, whenever and wherever the intelligence might reach me, would be highly gratifying for me, present or absent, I was to be considered as a sincere well-wisher of the Mahratta State. That it was highly desirable and in every respect proper and incumbent, whether considered with relation to the Mahratta government, the Company, Colonel Palmer or myself, that the points of business which now remained unadjusted between the Durbar and this Residency, should be settled before the arrival of Colonel Palmer to leave that gentleman to enter upon his trust without encumbrance or embarrassment. That I had been living with satisfaction for twelve years among the Mahrattas, and that the immediate happy settlement of the points in question would also be a source of satisfaction on retiring and during the remainder of my life. The Munshy then proceeded to state to the Peshwa the points in question as follow. The honourable reception at this Court of Colonel Palmer, the affairs of Baloo Mea and the Sinovee, noticed to you in my address of the 5th of September last, the establishment of a Dauk between Poona and Bombay and between the latter place and Surat, a passport for the party now constituting this Residency to proceed to Bombay. There were some other local points of less consequence with a detail of which it is unnecessary to trouble you.

Bajy Rou in reply was very earnest in his assurances of friendship toward the Company and promised me an early and satisfactory answer on the points in question after consulting Emrut Rou. Throughout this meeting it appeared to the Munshy that Bajy Rou placed great confidence in Govin Kishen.

On the 14th instant, Abba Selokur, one of the principal confidants of Nana Furnavees, and who was arrested with him on the 31st December last, was released by Doulut Rou Sindia, who conferred an honorary Keellat on him. He is now residing at the house in town of Rung Rou Raja Bahadur, who was security for him. Dada Gujra is also in the same situation. It is said that they have paid to the Sindian Party from five to twelve laks of rupees each for their liberation. They have neither of them at present any concern in governmental affairs. The early release of Nana is very generally and confidently talked of; many of Doulut Rou's principal officers evince considerable dissatisfaction and distrust at the general conduct of their principal, particularly in the arrest of Narrain Rou Bukshy.

On the 15th instant Doulut Rou Sindia gave an entertainment on his marriage to the Peshwa, Emrut Rou and Chimna Appa, at which most of the principal officers of the Court were present.

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The troops of Doulut Rou Sindia have this day been unusually clamorous for the payment of their arrears.

I have just been advised by the Durbar of a Karkun having been this day dispatched to meet and compliment Colonel Palmer and conduct him hither. I have also just received a letter from the Colonel, dated yesterday from Jamgaum, about sixty miles hence, in which he expresses an expectation of being here about the 21st instant

No. 91—Uthhoff reports that cavalry troops of Daulatrao Sindia have been sitting in Dhurna over him in order to have their arrears of pay immediately paid off.

FROM—J UHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 19th March 1798

I have repeatedly noticed to you the dissatisfaction evinced by many of Doulut Rou Sindia's principal officers, since the arrest of Narrain Rou Buskshy on the 6th instant. The latter was the channel of their business with the Durbar, particularly of a pecuniary nature, and was a favorite with them from the conciliation of his disposition and conduct. The office of Buskshy is not yet conferred on any one, and the monied men who have hitherto relieved the exigencies of the soldiery by loans smarting under the losses they have sustained by Narrain Rou's arrest, decline during the present state of suspense to make any further supplies, which has reduced Doulut Rou's troops, now from three to six months in arrear, to great distress. To this dissatisfaction and distress, is added distrust from the unreasonableness and violence of the conduct of Doulut Rou, who is thought to have a plan in agitation for the seizure of more of his principal officers. Under these circumstances a large body of Doulut Rou's troops, chiefly cavalry, at the head of whom were Muzzuffur Khan, Ashoor Khan and other Mahomedans, who have large commands of what are called Hisdoostanny troops, being levies made in that part of the country and who submit less tamely than any other of the Sindian troops to ill payment or any kind of ill treatment, posted themselves under arms on the morning of the 16th instant in Dhurna over Doulut Rou Sindia, insisting on the payment of their arrears and their discharge, or security for regular payment and good treatment in future. Doulut Rou, who was in an upper apartment, sent the brother of Jadoo Rou Bhasker to pacify them whom they would not suffer to depart and kept also by constraint Serjajee Ghautky and Gopaul Bhow, who had been subsequently deputed by Doulut Rou with a message to them. In this state affairs remained till the morning of the 18th instant, during which several messages passed between Doulut Rou and the troops in Dhurna, the former proposing the immediate

payment of half their demands leaving the balance to future examination and adjustment, in which the latter professed their willingness to acquiesce on condition of Soukar security being given for the payment of the remaining half. In the course of these discussions some messages passed between Doulut Rou and Colonel Filose, through some of the confidential ministers of the former ; and some of the Colonel's troops that had been sent in advance, were brought back to camp, which occasioned a representation from the cavalry in Dhurna to the European officers in Doulut Rou's service, when the latter assured them that if the payment of their arrears was their sole object they would not act against them, and Colonel Filose's troops have since returned to their former position. The Cavalry are said to claim an arrear of five crores of rupees, and scruple not with great asperity to upbraid Doulut Rou with squandering large sums on his late marriage and leaving his troops unpaid, and with admitting into his councils low, bad men to the neglect of the old and respectable adherents of his family. During these discussions Doulut Rou has been attended by Bannajee Huzra, Fukkeerjee Gaurweh, Baboo Rou Angria, Jadoo Rou Bhasker, Bikram Cheyla and some others of less note. Rajjee Patil and Ramjee Patell, two old Marratta officers of some respectability, have been employed as mediators, but to the period of my writing with but little success ; and Colonel Filose, Major Drugeon and Major George, the three principal European Officers in Sindia's service, were introduced as mediators on the 18th. The Dhurna has not, as is sometimes the case, debarred any of the parties from all sustenance ; sweetmeats, etc., having been distributed among them and some having had their victuals dressed for them in the usual manner.

Since Emrut Rou entered his tents on the 26th ultimo he has had frequent interviews with Bajy Rou and Chimna Appa at his camp and at gardens in this neighbourhood, but not at the palace in town.

Since writing the above, matters have been arranged for Colonel Palmer's arrival at this Residency on the 22nd instant.

Intelligence has this instant reached me from Doulut Rou Sindia's camp, that there is a prospect of accommodation by the payment of a considerable part of the arrears of the troops in Dhurna.

No. 92—Uththoff reports his last audience with the Peshwa and the arrival of Col. Palmer at Poona.

FROM—J. UTHTHOFF,

TO—THE HON'BLE SIR JOHN SHORE, BART.

Poona, 23rd March 1798.

I had an idea that my address of the 19th instant might have been the last with which it would be necessary for me to trouble you, but some

circumstances have occurred between that period and Colonel Palmer's arrival here and assuming charge of the Residency, which it seems requisite to submit to you.

Early in the morning of the 20th Captain Edward Moor proceeded from this Residency to Korygaum, about 17 miles hence, to compliment Colonel Palmer on his approach.

On the morning of the 20th instant, Bapoo Chitnavees paid me a visit when I strongly urged the settlement of the points now in suspense between the Durbar and this Residency, to which he assured me that every attention in his power should be shown. He also intimated that both the Peshwa and Emrut Rou would probably wish me to pay them a visit prior to their first interview with Colonel Palmer.

In the course of the morning I received a message from the Peshwa that he wished to see me at the palace in the afternoon, whither I in consequence proceeded between four and five o'clock. After sitting with the Peshwa in public Durbar for some time where were present among others, Govin Pingleh and Narro Punt Chukkurdew, two persons who were made prisoners on the arrest of Nana Furnavees on the 31st December last. Govin Kishen came in and the Peshwa shortly after retired to an inner apartment where I had a very long private interview with him at which Chimna Appa, Govin Kishen, Bapoo Chitnavees and Munshy Meer Fukkuruddin were present. The Peshwa expressed his friendship and attachment toward the Company in the most earnest and apparently cordial terms, observing that they were cemented by the strongest bonds through his father Ragonant Rou, his own personal disposition, and the good understanding that had been established between the states for so long a period by Sir Charles Malet, of whom he spoke in the highest terms of respect, esteem, and regard.

Both Bajy Rou and Govin Kishen dwelt with much earnestness on this subject and evinced considerable solicitude, lest a change of men at this Residency should involve a change of measures, proceeding even to the extent of putting the question pointedly to me who would be security on this head, and whether I would?

I assured the Peshwa that by the change of men in this Residency no change of system was intended by the Company. That the situation of representatives at this Court on the part of the Company, was one of the most elevated under our Government and that a person of the first respectability was therefore selected to fill it. That Colonel Palmer was a person of high reputation, well versed in Indian Politics and manners, and particularly well acquainted with the concerns between our Government and the Mahrattas from his long residence at the Durbar of the Doulut Rou Sindia, besides which, he had the advantage of enjoying your acquaintance and confidence personally. That there was therefore no kind of occasion

for any security whatever on this head, and that as to his idea of my becoming security, while charmed by such a mark of his confidence and goodwill and ready to afford him every satisfaction, it was really too high an honor and gratification for me to aspire to.

After some consultation between Bajy Rou and Govin Kishen in too low a tone of voice to be distinctly heard by me, the latter observed that it sometimes happened that a servant became more powerful than his Master, and that in such a case it was requisite to apply a remedy. He instanced the case of the late Zufferuddoula, commonly called Dhousa, formerly the Chief of Neermull under Nizam Ally Khan, and evidently alluded to the relative situation of the Peshwa and Doulut Rou Sindia expressing also, on other occasions during my visit, dissatisfaction with the latter. Govin Kishen added that the Peshwa wished to impress this strongly on my mind as something was now in agitation which should be disclosed to Colonel Palmer after his arrival here, and confidence established between them. Neither the Peshwa nor Govind Kishen would enter into any detail on this head, but it seemed to me either that some plan was now in agitation here by the Peshwa's party to the prejudice of the Sindian Party, which would be hereafter disclosed to Colonel Palmer, or that the Peshwa had it in agitation to apply for the Company's assistance against the Sindian Party soon after the Colonel might be established in this Residency.

I observed that the frankness and confidence which Bajy Rou was pleased to evince on the present occasion, induced me to submit some points to him with equal unreserve, which otherwise there might have been some impropriety in discussing. I then observed on the differences which unhappily subsisted between our friends and allies, the Mahrattas and Nizam Ally Khan, and expressed the wish of our Government that they were happily adjusted. I also strongly urged the alleviation of the sufferings of Nana Furnavees as an old and faithful servant of the Peshwaship, who had been very instrumental for a series of years in cementing the good understanding between the Company and the Peshwa.

The Peshwa observed that these were governmental affairs, which would be settled after consultation with Emrut Rou in such a manner as might seem best for the state. On several occasions in the course of conversation the Peshwa made a great distinction between governmental and personal affairs and communications, and was very earnest in his assurances that his friendship and attachment toward the Company were to be considered as both governmental and personal.

I strongly urged the settlement of all points now in suspense between the Durbar and this Residency, that I might have the satisfaction of delivering over the Residency to Colonel Palmer with as little encumbrance and embarrassment as possible. Both the Peshwa and Govin Kishen promised that the points in question should be settled without delay.

On the evening of the 21st instant, I had the honor to pay my respects in person to Colonel Palmer at his encampment at Talagaum, above seven miles from Poona, whence I returned, and met him again early the next morning near his encampment and attended him to the Residency.

My best endeavours have been used to effect the Colonel's reception here in an honorable and satisfactory manner, and the Colonel has honored and gratified me by assurances that in as far as rested with me he has no reason to be dissatisfied.

* * * * *

SECTION 2

Mornington's policy of alliances (April—Dec. 1798)

No. 93—In reporting his assuming of the charge of the Poona Residency, Col. Palmer assures the Governor of his readiness to execute the latter's commands.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

Poona, 22nd March 1798.

Hon'ble Sir,

I have the honour to advise of my arrival at Poona this day in consequence of my appointment by the Honourable the Governor General in Council to the office of Resident at the Peshwa's Court

It will afford me the highest satisfaction to execute all commands with which your government may be pleased to honour me to your approbation, and to evince by my zeal and attention my earnest desire to be instrumental in my station to promote the interests of the Hon'ble Company, as connected with or depending upon your immediate authority.

I have the honour to be, etc . etc.,

(Signed) Wm. PALMER.

Poona, 22nd March 1798

Resident at Poona.

No. 94—Col. Palmer reports his arrival at Poona and the reception he had from the Peshwa and Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER, RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 22nd March 1798.

1st paragraph * * * * (one line only torn).

The Peshwa deputed his (portion torn out).
confidential minister, to meet and welcome me * * * * also shown
much attention to my accommodation in

Dowlut Row Sindea likewise, sent a deputation of some of his Sirdars
to meet me yesterday at the Residency.

I shall immediately enter upon the functions of the Resident at the
Peshwa's Court and will neglect no means of which I am possessed to
discharge them.

Mr. Uhthoff purposes to repair to Bombay as soon as he has delivered
over to me the public documents in his charge.

I am greatly obliged to the gentleman for his readiness to acquaint me
with an unreserved communication of his knowledge and long experience
in the transactions between the Peshwa's Durbar and this Residency.

I expect that an early day will be fixed for my first and (formal) visit of
Baajy Row, and for the presentation of the jewels pledged by his father
which the Hon'ble Company have, with so much munificence, been
pleased to return to him.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, etc.,

(Signed) Wm. PALMER,

Resident at Poona.

P. S.—On Saturday 24th March 1798 I visited the Paishwa for the
first time, and delivered the Governor General's letter to him.

No. 95—The Resident reports the difficulty in delivering the jewels and the
persecution of the bankers of Poona started by the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 27th April 1798.

[Early portion missing.]

The unreasonableness and perverseness of the Paishwa or his servants
leaves me still encumbered with the charge of his jewels; when two days
had elapsed beyond the promised time of taking them away, I sent a message
to remind him of them. To which he answered, that I must send the jewels
by some confidential servant of my own to his jewel office, where the
keeper of his jewels would (prepare) an account of them, and give me
a receipt.

This manner of directing the delivery of the jewels was not very respectful towards me, but taking no notice of the slight, I replied that Captain Michie and myself having been charged with the care of these presents to him from the Company, it was indispensable on us to be present on their final inspection and delivery. And for this purpose his Daroga of the Jawahir Khana or Jewel Office might come to my house attended by any other persons whom the Paishwa pleased to send, and there examine the articles, give a receipt for them conformable to the state in which he should find them, and take them away.

To this proposal the Paishwa will not accede, though no reason is assigned for his refusal, nor can I possibly devise one for him, unless it is a contrivance to keep the jewels in my possession lest they should fall into the hands of Sindia. And in this desire I would cheerfully gratify him, if he would candidly acquaint me with his motive for it. But I cannot surrender my trust in the slighting and insecure manner which he requires. Nor will I deliver the jewels to any of his servants without requisition under his seal. All the notices which I have hitherto received concerning the delivery of them have come from his Moonshy.

Last night the Paishwa augmented his guard with a number of soldiers and some pieces of cannon, under an apprehension that Sirjajee Ghatky would forcibly take away Baba Furky who is confined in the palace, and the delivery of whose person Sirjajee demanded.

All the Shroffs in the city have been required to furnish money to the Paishwa or Sindia. The Gomastahs of the Houses of Manohur Doss and Dwarka Doss, were summoned to the Paishwa's presence, and ordered to supply him with ten lakhs of rupees immediately, with a threat to send them to Sirjajee Ghatky if they refused.

These Gomastahs having represented to me that their principals had established houses at Poona, principally for the purpose of accommodating our government in money transactions, and in full confidence of being protected by us against any exactions of this Durbar, and being myself convinced of the injury and inconveniences which the Company's affairs will sustain, if these banking houses should be impeded in their business, I think it my indispensable duty to remonstrate to the Paishwa against a proceeding which will be attended with such bad consequences to our interest, so far as it affects the bankers in question. I shall in my next have the honour to acquaint you with the result of this application.

As the Paishwa and Sindia seem to have united in the desire of extorting the wealth of individuals without respect of persons, a general terror and alarm is defused throughout the city and the inhabitants are leaving in crowds.

Emrut Rao is on his return to Poona.

(Signed) Wm. PALMER.

A detachment of Sindia's troops destined to act against the Rajah of Kolapore, has been two months encamped at the distance of a few coss from Poona, unable to proceed for want of money, and it is now too late in the season to prosecute its march.

No. 96—The Resident is asked to recommend to the Peshwa not to involve himself in hostilities with his neighbours.

FROM—SIR ALURED CLARKE*,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 17th April 1798.

The discontents which prevail amongst Dowlut Row Sindia's officers, and the jealousy which subsists between him and the Peishwa, may possibly oblige him to relinquish his hostile designs against the Nizam.

As it is of material importance to our political interests that the Peshwa should render himself independent of Sindia, and that a good understanding should be maintained between the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad, you will avail yourself of every favourable opportunity of recommending to the Paishwa to endeavour to give stability to his own government instead of involving himself in hostilities with his neighbours.

The interest which we feel in his welfare, our desire to prevent any disagreement between states with which we have been long connected and on whose good disposition towards each other the general tranquillity of India so much depends, may be urged as the grounds of this recommendation.

I shall postpone making any observation on the subject of Mr. Uhthoff's conference with the Paishwa, until I am apprized of the measures in agitation which are intended to be disclosed to you.

You will take an opportunity of intimating to the Paishwa my satisfaction at the attention which you experienced in your progress through his territories.

No. 97—The Resident writes to the Governor General informing him of the Peshwa's intention to visit Amritrao and of his evasion in passing proper receipt for his father's jewels now being delivered to him.

FROM—COL. PALMER RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 30th April 1798.

Honourable Sir,

Since I had the honour to address you on the 27th instant, no further communication has been made concerning the project said to be entertained by the Paishwa, stated in the 6th paragraph of that letter. But I have this instant heard of a circumstance, which in a slight degree corroborates the information therein conveyed to you.

* Acting Governor General from 6th April 1798 to 17th May during the interval between the retirement of Shore and the assumption of Government by Mornington.

Emrut Row, who was on his return to Poona, has halted at the distance of 12 coss, where the Paishwa purposes to visit him. Bajy Row's professed object in this visit is to reconcile a difference between his brother and Sindia, and perhaps nothing more is meant. But if the plan above alluded to is really in contemplation, it may be supposed that he will avail himself of such a favourable opportunity to carry it into execution.

The Paishwa, or his servants in his name, refuses to acquiesce in my requisition of the authority of his seal and signature for my delivering his jewels to the person whom he may appoint to receive them, although I have represented to him that such an authority is indispensable to exonerate me of my charge, and no reason is assigned for declining to give it but its not being customary, as if precedents were to be found of such valuable presents to the Paishwa or his predecessors.

I can only account for the frivolous objections and evasions by supposing the Paishwa to be actually apprehensive of Sindia's importuning him for the jewels towards the relief of his necessities.

No. 98—Palmer reports the growing tension between the Peshwa and Sindia and the latter's efforts to apprehend the former's person.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th May 1798.

Hon'ble Sir,

Since my last address of the 4th instant some circumstances have come to my knowledge which seem to portend an early decision of the Paishwa's design to disengage himself from the contest of Dowlut Rao Sindia, or of the determination of the latter to persevere in his usurpation.

Sindia appears to have taken alarm at the declaration made by the Paishwa mentioned in my last, and at the unusual opposition which, in some recent instances, he has experienced to his encroachments on the Paishwa's authority. For in the night of the 4th he suddenly ordered a large body of his troops under arms, with the intention, as I am informed, of marching into the city and seizing the persons of Govind Row Kishen, Govind Pingleh, and some of the persons in the Paishwa's confidence, to put the Paishwa himself under restraint, to deprive him of all power and to use his [power] and authority for the sanction of all his own acts. But learning that the Paishwa had augmented the guard at his palace, that the streets and bazars of the city were lined with his troops and artillery, and the inhabitants prepared for resistance in consequence of a tumult which had arisen in the town that day between the troops of Serjajee Chatky stationed in it and the Paishwa's troops, Sindia desisted from his purpose,

and gave out that his preparation was occasioned by a report of the Paishwa and Chimna Appa being on the point of secretly withdrawing from the city.

Whether Sindia had really received information of the Paishwa's intention to withdraw, or only suspected it from his late proceedings, it is evident that he will now use it as a pretext for such further encroachment on the Paishwa's authority or restraint on his person, as he may find it convenient to execute. And Sindia's designs are limited by no other consideration than his power to execute them.

But as Sindia is at this time entirely occupied in appeasing the clamours of his troops for arrears of pay, and they will not execute any service until they are satisfied, the Paishwa may with little or no obstruction, retire to Poorunder, or to the camp of his brother Emrut Row at seven coss distance from Poona, if he finds so hazardous a measure preferable to the state of degradation in which he is now held by Sindia.

In the mean time the Paishwa has directed Emrut Row to make new levies of troops notwithstanding the remonstrances of Sindia, and has summoned some of the great vassals of the state to repair to Poona with their quota of troops. Of these I learn that the brothers of Pursaram Bhow are actually on their march from Meritch with about 5,000 horse. This ready obedience is supposed to be the price of their brother's liberation, who is a prisoner in one of the Paishwa's forts.

I have received no further intimation from the Paishwa of his wish to have a private conference with me, although I expressed my readiness to attend him at whatever time he would please to appoint.

No. 99—The Resident reports that the Peshwa had withdrawn the requisitions for extorting loans from bankers and consequently there was quiet and order in the city, although they were likely to be of a short duration as there was no prospect of a sincere union being effected between the Peshwa and Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th May 1798.

Hon'ble Sir,

Since I had the honour to address you on the 7th instant, an unusual tranquillity has appeared at the Durbars of the Paishwa and Dowlut Row Sindia. The city is restored to quiet and order, and the requisitions for extorted loans or contributions from the bankers have been withdrawn. No further demand was made on the houses of Manohur Doss and Dwarka Doss after the representation which I made in their behalf, as stated in the 9th paragraph of my letter of the 27th ultimo.

Whether the present moderation and forbearance of Bajy Row and Sindia towards each other and towards the inhabitants of the city, is the result of agreement or the effect of artifice in each to conceal his designs against the other, it is not likely to be of long continuance. Jealousy and distrust, opposition of interest and competition for power, discourage every expectation of a sincere union between them for the repose of the country or their own security.

I cannot discover that any efforts have been made on either side towards a reconciliation between the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees, or the latter and Sindia since Nana has been confined in Ahmednugur, or even that it is any longer wished by either party. Nana's attempt to defeat the succession of Bajy Row, and the subsequent perfidy of both the Paishwa and Sindia towards the unfortunate Minister, have precluded all hope of confidence being established between them, although a sense of mutual advantage might induce them to act together in the administration of the Government if a guarantee could be found, and were to be admitted by Bajy Row and Sindia, sufficiently powerful to compel an adherence to such engagements as would be required for the security of their person and authority respectively from the machinations of each other.

Nana Furnavees has declared that he will not return to the ministry on any conditions whatever, which are not to be guaranteed by our Government, which I suppose to be utterly inadmissible, considering the extensive and hazardous consequences in which it might involve us. Nor would the Paishwa or Sindia submit to confer on us a right to interpose in the internal management of their affairs.

It is much to be lamented for the prosperity of the country that Nana Furnavees has been driven from the administration which he conducted with great wisdom, energy and justice in the protection and encouragement of industry.

Dowlut Rao Sindia received my visit on the 9th instant. The ceremony was thus long delayed on account of my objecting to the number of his servants for whom he demanded presents, amounting to near one hundred, and more than double the number who attended Mahajee Sindia on his visit to Sir Charles Malet. At length after he had complained that my objection arose from want of esteem and friendship for him, and that it could never be supposed a few additional presents to persons in his train was the real cause of my delaying to receive his visit, I consented to admit sixty persons rather than hazard an appearance of coolness or misunderstanding between us. My objection was not to the increase of presents which is trifling in expense, but to the innovation in custom.

No. 100—The Resident reports the efforts of Bajirao for emancipating himself from the irksome control of Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 14th May 1798.

Hon'ble Sir,

I am honoured with your commands of the 17th ultimo. The tenor of my late advices will have confirmed the opinion which you entertain, of Sindia's being obliged to relinquish his hostile designs against the Nizam. They have already been suspended, and his increasing difficulties without any prospect of mitigation will, in all probability, not only oblige him to abandon his projected enterprise altogether, but be (at no distant period) productive of the most ruinous consequences to him.

Sindia's monthly expenditure in his camp here, is at least 20 lacks of rupees, a sum which, I believe, far exceeds his territorial revenue, and his army in Hindoostan cannot be subsisted on the collections of the country. To supply these deficiencies, he has no resource but in obtaining possession of the secret treasures of Nana Furnavees and the tribute of the small independent northern principalities, and exactions from individuals, all of which are scanty and precarious.

If to the consequences which this pecuniary distress, if continued, must produce, be added the general abhorrence in which the principles and proceedings of his government are held, it is scarcely possible to conceive that he can much longer retain his power or dominion. There is no measure, however desperate or flagitious, to which he would not have recourse to maintain his authority. But I see none which promises him success.

It is indeed reported that he seeks an alliance with Tippoo, which is not improbable, though no other proofs of it have appeared than in intercourse of civilities, but I cannot think that Tippoo would hazard a renewal of the confederacy of the Company, Nizam, and Paishwa, against him to gain an ally incapable of supporting himself, unless indeed he should expect indemnity from success by the accession of a formidable French force.

The Paishwa, either excited by observation of Sindia's critical situation or by indignation at his own, assumed at the last conference between them, a tone of authority and decision which, I believe, Sindia little expected. Bajy Row required of him to declare whether he considered himself as master or servant, to which Sindia answered with great respect and even humility that he acknowledged himself to be the Paishwa's servant, and was ready to show his dependence by his obedience. The Paishwa then reminded him of all the acts of violence, injustice, and insolence, which he and his servants had used in numberless instances

towards the servants and subjects of the state in the city, and even in the very palace where the Paishwa resides, in contempt of and in opposition to his authority, and with the highest disrespect to his person. Such conduct, the Paishwa observed, was as insolent to the master, as unjustifiable in the servant and he was resolved to endure them no longer. He therefore required of him to remove immediately with his army to Jaumgaum.

Sindia received and answered these reproaches mildly. He said that he was ready and willing at the Paishwa's command to remove to Jaumgaum or even into Hindoostan. But the Paishwa knew his inability to move for want of money to pay his troops. That he had incurred the debt to his army in placing him on the musnud, and it was incumbent on him to discharge it; when this was effected he would immediately quit Poona, and leave the Paishwa to his own discretion.

On this Bajy Row observed, that he had engaged to pay Sindia two crores of rupees for supporting his right to the Paishwaship, a few lacks only of which remain unpaid, and that these should be discharged whenever Sindia would move from Poona. They parted without coming to any determination.

This conversation was reported to me by the Vakeel of Govind Row Guicawar, who has very good means of information, and as he considers his master's interests to depend on the protection of the Company, he would not designedly deceive me. And in fact the tenor of the conversation corresponds with the open opposition which the Paishwa has lately made to the further encroachments on his authority by Sindia, and Sindia's apparent submission to it.

Nor is it improbable that Sindia will be satisfied with that degree of interference which he has hitherto exercised in the Paishwa's affairs, rather than by forcing him to extremities risque a combination of the great feudal chieftains of the state in support of his rights, especially while his own army is discontented and seditious for want of pay, and the Mahratta troops in his service favour the cause of Bajy Row.

It is with diffidence that I hazard an opinion upon the result of this arduous struggle, but from all the information which I receive, and all the observation which I am able to make on the situation and character of those who now are and of those who are likely to become the principal actors in it, I think the Paishwa will emancipate himself from his subjection to Sindia, although his weakness and inconstancy will probably place him under the ascendancy of some other person.

Should any disposition appear in the Paishwa or his ministers to receive favourably your sentiments on the disputes between him and the Nizam, I shall not fail to urge the adoption of them on the arguments which you have been pleased to suggest and on every other which may occur to me, as likely to produce the desired effect.

No. 101—The Resident reports two matters, the assurance by Sindia of his reliance on British friendship, and his attempt to reconcile Nana Fadnis and Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th May 1798.

Hon'ble Sir,

Since I had the honour to address you on the 14th instant no change has appeared in either the situation or sentiments of the Paishwa or Dowlut Row Sindia.

I expected that I should have had some material communication to make to you in this address from the former as he appointed this day for a conference. But last night I received a message from him desiring to defer the meeting on pretext of his being indisposed. That the excuse is mere pretext I am convinced, but the motive to it, I cannot pretend to conjecture. It is, however, consistent with the procrastination and irresolution of Bajy Row's conduct in all transactions, whether important or otherwise.

On the 14th Bhow Bukshy paid a visit to me, either by the direction or with the permission of Sindia, of which the purport was to acquaint me with Dowlut Row's desire to place perfect confidence in me, to rely on my advice for the regulation of his affairs, and on my exertions for the improvement of his connection with the Company.

When I had made a suitable answer to this obliging advance from Sindia, the Bhow desired to know my sentiments on the claims which the Paishwa and Sindia have upon Nizam Ally Khan, and of their intention to enforce them by arms if the Nizam persists in refusing to discharge them. I replied to Bhow Bukshy without hesitation that our Government, as the friends and allies of both parties, would be happy to see an amicable termination of the disputes, that such an issue might be obtained by submitting it to an impartial umpire, since the claims were established or not by public treaty, or other written engagements on which it would be easy to decide.

To the reasonableness of this proposition the Bhow readily assented, but observed, that the Nizam would never accede to it, until he was convinced of the ability of the Paishwa and Sindia to do themselves justice, and that when he obliges them to have recourse to arms, the dispute will rest upon other grounds.

I believe that both parties are equally averse to the interposition of a mediator. The Mahrattas are a little suspicious of our partiality to the Nizam, and His Highness will not trust his money to the decision of an arbitrator, so long as he can withhold it with impunity.

Sindia has for some days past had it in contemplation to reattempt a reconciliation with Nana Furnavees, and Bannajee Huzra has been named for the negociation, but has not yet set out on his mission. It is possible that interest and the hope of circumventing each other, may effect a temporary union between these two rival chieftains, but cordiality and confidence can never take place, and Bajy Row cannot be induced to join in it, though he may be compelled to submit to it. I am however persuaded that no temptation can prevail on Nana to trust himself again in the power of Sindia.

The clamour of Sindia's troops for their arrears which had for some days subsided, is now renewed, and they threaten to idemnify themselves by living at free quarters upon the country.

I have the honor to be, with the highest
respect etc ,

Poona, 18th May 1798.

Signed Wm. PALMER

No. 102—The Resident reports the details of the rebellion of Muzaffar Khan in favour of the widows of Mahadjee Sindia, who were being sent to Burhanpur against their will.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 21st May 1798.

Honourable Sir,

Since my last address dated the 18th instant, an extraordinary transaction has thrown Dowlut Rhaw Sindia into great perplexity and consternation

A few days ago, the ladies of the late Mahajee Sindia's family were sent against their consent and with much violence used to compel them, from the camp of Dowlut Row to reside at Bourhanpore

They had arrived at a place called Koorygaum, distant about five coss from Poona, when Muzaffer Khan, a principal Rassaldar of Hindustanny cavalry, repaired to Koorygaum with a strong party of horse, overpowered Sindia's escort and conducted the women to his own camp

Whatever may have been the real motive of Muzaffer Khan for this daring act, his avowed one is the protection of the ladies and he has treated them with a degree of humanity and respect conformable to his declaration.

It is not certainly known, but it is generally believed that this seeming outrage was perpetrated by the desire of the ladies themselves, a supposition highly probable, considering the circumstances of violence and indignity under which they were expelled by the orders of Dowlut Row

The force under Muzaffer Khan and his associates, is too inconsiderable to make any resistance to the troops of Sindia. But the latter was apprehensive of the greater part of his army having concurred in the project

of Muzuffer Khan and being engaged to support him. Dowlut Row employed the whole day of the 19th in assuring himself of the fidelity of the commanders of the different corps, who have all protested their ignorance of the design and sworn to be faithful.

They, however, unanimously recommended mild expedients rather than force for recovering the ladies, stating the danger to which they would be exposed in an attack upon Muzuffer Khan's camp, and the reproach which Sindia would incur by placing them in such a situation. Sindia appeared to be much affected by this suggestion, but Sirjajee Ghatky like a true ruffian, observed that the women must take their chance, and urged the immediate march of the army.

It does not appear that there has been any concerted plan between Muzuffer Khan and other commanders, or that the Paishwa has abetted or was privy to it. And probably the Rassaldars had no other object in seizing the women than to detain them as pledges for the recovery of their arrears.

Although the Paishwa or the discontented officers of Sindia's army, may have had no participation in this event, it is extremely probable that they are disposed to avail themselves of it; and Sindia aware of this disposition, has artfully solicited the Paishwa for the junction of his troops to which he has consented, but they have not yet marched.

Some messages have passed between Sindia and Muzuffer Khan, but they seem to have produced nothing satisfactory, for yesterday morning Sindia's whole camp marched.

Muzuffer Khan has retreated to the camp of Emrut Row, probably to solicit his mediation with Dowlut Row, or to transfer the ladies to his protection.

I am informed that the commanders of Sindia's detachment, sent against Muzuffer Khan, were desirous of attacking his camp last night, but the troops refused on pretence of weakness and as nothing has been done today, there is reason to suppose that some secret intelligence subsists between him and Sindia's camp, or that a general disposition in his favor prevails among the troops.

It is reported to me by a person of some credit and information, that the enterprize of Muzuffer Khan was suggested by the Paishwa himself, as preparatory to a deep laid scheme for seizing the person of Sindia in the alarm and confusion which it would create, and that Bajy Row's timidity and irresolution prevented the execution of it yesterday, and has probably frustrated the design altogether.

But I cannot reconcile such a plan with the time and circumstances of sending away the women, which do not admit of such a concert as must be supposed between the Paishwa and Muzuffer Khan. However, this may be, it now appears that this affair is likely to be longer protracted

and to produce more trouble to Sindia than could be expected from the insignificance of Muzuffer Khan's force unsupported.

I shall lose no time in informing you of the further progress and termination of this extraordinary affair, as they come to my knowledge.

No. 103—The complications and trouble created by Sindia's dispute with his ladies are reported in detail by the Resident to the Governor General.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Hon'ble Sir,

Poona, 25th May 1798.

In my last address of the 21st I had the honor to inform you of the rise and progress of a dissension in the family of Sindia, which from some appearances which attended it, had given him serious apprehensions of the consequences.

I therein stated that negotiation for the return of the Bayies or their proceeding to Bourhanpore, having proved fruitless, Sindia detached a strong party to bring them back by force.

The circumstances of the slight skirmish which passed on the 22nd and the return of Sindia's detachment to Poona, being fully detailed in the Durbar news-papers, I will not trouble you with a repetition of them. They seem to have produced on the mind of Sindia a distrust of the fidelity of his troops in general, and to have induced him to recur to negotiation for the return of the ladies.

The Paishwa apprehending bad consequences to Emrut Row and perhaps, to himself, from the suspicions which Sindia would naturally entertain of the Row from the appearances of Muzuffer Khan's reliance on him for support, sent a message to me on the 23rd requesting my interposition with Sindia as a friend, and on motives of concern for his representation and domestic tranquillity, to invite the ladies to return to him under assurances of an honourable and affectionate reception.

Although I had very slender hopes of any good effect from such a solicitation, I complied with it, being desirous to convince the Paishwa of my disposition to oblige him, and seeing no reasonable cause of offence to Sindia in an interference on such motive.

I accordingly directed Gunput Rou to wait upon Dowlut Row, to state to him my sentiments and advice upon the subject and the reasons which had induced me to obtrude them upon him.

Sindia acknowledged my interposition to be friendly and dictated by a regard for his honor and happiness, but observed that it was a family dispute and would be adjusted without the intervention of friends.

Whether he knew or only suspected that my message was in consequence of the Paishwa's request, I do not know, but he took the occasion to complain of the conduct of Emrut Row, who he asserted to have promised him that he would take the Begums out of the custody of Muzuffer Khan, and restore them to him, and would afford no protection to that officer. But that instead of performing these promises, he had suffered the ladies to remain with Muzuffer Khan, and under pretext of consulting with Serjajee Ghatky had sent for him to his camp, and exposed him to be cut off by the insurgents on his return, and that they are still sheltered by being permitted to remain in the vicinity of Emrut Row's camp.

As Sindia makes no distinction between the actions of Emrut Row and the Paishwa, his distrust of the latter is, by the late occurrences, increased to such a degree that he is convinced his own safety depends upon the Paishwa's destruction, and I am told that he considers this object so immediately indispensable, that for the attainment of it, he is willing to sacrifice the great points which have obstructed his reconciliation with Nana Furnavees, of leaving that Minister in uncontrolled power and repairing himself to Hindostan.

Nor is the Paishwa less excited by distrust and animosity to effect the destruction of Sindia, and they are perfectly aware of each other's sentiments and designs; Sindia is able to execute this by his own force, if he can bring them to act. The Paishwa seems to rely principally upon the defection of Sindia's troops, and such is the odium which the violence of his Government and the profligacy of his character have brought upon him, that it is very probable he would be deserted by a very considerable part of his army in a contest with the Paishwa, who is the acknowledged legal sovereign of the Mahratta state, and beloved and respected for his mildness and benevolence.

The general dissatisfaction of Sindia's army which has manifested itself at the unworthy treatment of his helpless and unoffending female relations, and the destruction of most of his principal Mahratta Sirdars and many of the troops to their cause, his apprehension of the Nizam and Bhonsla availing themselves of these dissensions will, I think, compel him to adjust the dispute with the women to their satisfaction, and to grant an amnesty to those persons who have fomented or supported it.

No. 104—The Resident is informed that Bhau Bukshy has been reinstated by Sindia in his former office.

FROM—THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Sir,

Fort William, 7th May 1798.

For your information I beg leave to transmit translations of letters from Dowlut Row Sindia and Bhow Bukshee notifying the reinstatement of the

latter in his former offices, and copies in English and Persian of the Hon'ble the acting Governor General's replies, the originals of which have been delivered to Bugwunt Row who was the channel for the delivery of the former.

No. 104-A

FROM—DAULATRAO SINDIA,
TO—THE ACTING GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Received 16th April 1798.

My Dewan Saddasheo Mulhar (Bhow Bukshee) having for some time, from several circumstances, absented from attending at my Durbar and remained entirely secluded, I, lately actuated by the esteem and regard I entertained towards him, and from a consideration of the fidelity of his attachment and the praiseworthy conduct he has in every instance displayed over to this house, and having soothed and pacified him prevailed upon him to accompany me, and have directed him to attend the Durbar regularly and to undertake the management of the affairs of his department as formerly. Accordingly he has resumed his duties confidently and permanently, as he was formerly the medium through which the intercourse and correspondence of the two states was carried on. I have to request that considering him as invested with his former office and situation, you will make him as before the channel of communication between us. I have written this for your information as the strictest friendship and union of interest subsist between the two states.

Deeming me ever anxious to hear of your health and welfare you will, I trust, frequently rejoice me with your friendly letters.

No. 104 B

Written, 7th May 1798

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter (recapitulate that received 18th April) and understand its contents.

As Bhow Bukshee has ever shown himself a faithful servant to your family and a sincere well-wisher to both Sirkars, your notification of his reinstatement in the offices he held, is very satisfactory to me. your going yourself to his house and showing him those marks of your favor, was highly proper and becoming, upon the general principle of shewing favor to those who have merited it by their attachment, and as the bonds of alliance and harmony have long and closely been united between the two Sirkars. In conformity to your desire the same intercourse will be maintained through the Bhow's medium as formerly obtained.

No. 104-c.

FROM—BHOW BUCKSHY,

TO—THE ACTING GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Received, 8th April 1798.

A considerable period has elapsed since I have had the honor of hearing from you, which excites my solicitude.

I have lately heard from the communications of Bugwunt Row and Jaggunaut Roy, of your journey to Lucknow, and the arrangement you have effected in the affairs of that quarter which has added greatly to my satisfaction. It has ever been my sincere wish and my attention has uniformly been directed to promote the prosperity of this Government ; yet having lately neglected my attendance at the Durbar, in consequence of some circumstances that had occurred, the Maharajah from his great goodness and condescension, came the other day to my house, and after conferring his favors upon me prevailed on me to accompany him, and I consequently have resumed my usual attendance at the Durbar. You will learn all particulars from the letter which the Maharajah has addressed to you and from Colonel Palmer's communications.

Deeming me ever desirous of improving and cementing the friendship subsisting between the two Sirkars you will occasionally honor me with your kind letters.

I refer you for other particulars to the verbal representations of Bugwunt Row.

No. 105—The disaffection of Sindia's troops and his great embarrassment resulting from the rebellion of the ladies, are further explained by the Resident in this letter.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Honourable Sir,

Poona, 28th May 1798.

Since my last address of the 25th instant, the dispute between Dowlut Row Sindia and the ladies of his late adoptive father's family has assumed a very serious aspect.

The party of the latter receives daily accessions of force by the desertion of Sindia's Deccan cavalry and has already begun to intercept his supplies.

He is desirous that the women should return to his protection on such assurances as he can give them, but they require the previous dismissal of the three ministers to whom they impute their sufferings and disgrace and the appointment of others of their own nomination.

With this requisition Sindia declares that no extremity shall induce him to comply. If he persists in this resolution he may sacrifice himself to preserve these unworthy favourites, who are universally detested, as even that part of his army which remains faithful to him, are not willing to engage in the cause of these miscreants, and the protraction of the dispute will afford time for Sindia's more formidable enemies to support the insurgents.

If the Paishwa foment these troubles, as it is natural to suppose he does, he acts with great caution and secrecy. And appearances, at least, of cordiality and confidence are still maintained between him and Sindia.

I am informed that Emrut Rao will march to Poona immediately, his family returned to the city last night.

It would be very beneficial for our alliance with this Government if it could be re-established in that degree of power which it possessed before the death of the late Paishwa. As in its present weak and divided state, it would afford us little or no assistance, should we be again reduced to apply for the co-operation of its troops.

But no hopes of this desirable event can be entertained so long as Sindia continues at the capital with a superiority of force, which secures to him an ascendancy in the state, totally incompatible with the authority of the Paishwa.

I shall wait upon the Paishwa this evening by his own appointment. I am not advised of the subjects which he wishes to discuss with me, nor shall I have time to submit to you the result of the conference by this post. But should it prove to be important, I will dispatch it tomorrow by express.

No. 106—The Resident reports that Sindia's conduct towards the ladies was regarded with universal abhorrence. He also sends a proposal from Bajirao for renewing the offensive alliance against Tipu.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 1st June 1798

At a private interview which I had the honour to inform you in my last address I was to have with the Paishwa on the 28th, he did not, as I expected he would, enter into any detailed representation of his situation and views, but confined himself generally to declarations of his attachment to the Company, the great satisfaction which he experienced in his alliance with them, and in the intercourse and harmony subsisting between our Governments, and his earnest desire to strengthen these connections to render them permanent for mutual advantage.

He apologised for the little attention which he or his ministers had been able to show to me since my arrival by the peculiar embarrassments of his situation. He expressed entire confidence in my disposition to promote the reciprocal benefits of which the alliance is susceptible and concluded with saying that Gopal Row would attend me on the 30th and fully explain his sentiments and intentions.

I gave the Paishwa, in answer, the fullest assurances of your desire to maintain and improve the political relations subsisting between our Government and his, of your wish to see his authority firmly established, and of your great personal esteem and consideration for him.

On my own part, I assured the Paishwa that I was as much disposed by inclination as by duty to contribute in my station towards the stability and improvement of the alliance, which had so long and happily for both subsisted between the two powers, and sincerely wished the prosperity of his Government.

Moonshy Gopal Row did not come to me until yesterday. His communications on the Paishwa's situation and views were full and unreserved. He recapitulated the many acts of violence, oppression and perfidy, of which Dowlut Row Sindia had been guilty towards the ministers and servants of his own Sirkar, as well as his encroachments on the authority of the Paishwa and his extortions on his servants and subjects. As the proceedings of Sindia, recounted by the Moonshy, have long been matter of public notoriety, I shall not trouble you with a repetition of his detail of them, but proceed to what appeared to be the immediate purpose of the Paishwa's communications by Gopal Row's, viz., to state his conduct and designs, in the existing dispute between Sindia and the ladies of his family.

The Moonshy represented the violence and indecency with which Sindia had driven these ladies from his house and protection, as repugnant to the precepts of the Hindoo religion, as well as the greatest outrage which he could commit against the memory of his adoptive father and benefactor. That his conduct on this occasion was regarded with universal abhorrence among the Hindoos, and not an individual of them would support his cause. The Paishwa was called upon equally by the duties of his station and the claims of humanity to afford protection to these injured women, and this he would extend to them at all hazards. He had recommended it to Sindia to restore these ladies to his family on the terms which they demanded, and which are reasonable and just. These are the dismissal of Sirjajee Ghatky, Fukeerjee Garway, and Jadow Row Bhaskar, the persons by whose advice they have been insulted and oppressed, and the committing to their custody a young wife of his late father whom he had forced to his bed, or at least that he should separate from her, as his cohabiting with her dishonours the family and is an indelible stain on his own character.

To these propositions Sindia will by no means consent, nor to another made by the Paishwa for giving the ladies an asylum in his own house

After this statement the Moonshy observed that the Paishwa found no resource against the pride, obstinacy and injustice of Sindia, but in open resistance, and to that he would have recourse rather than abandon the cause of the women, or suffer any further encroachments on his own rights and authority. That he did not desire the subversion of Sindia's government; he only required his retiring to his proper station

The Moonshy added that the Paishwa being anxious to justify his intentions to all the Powers of India, and to the English Government in particular, wished for my candid opinion and advice on the subjects of those communications.

I made to the Moonshy suitable acknowledgments for the confidence which the Paishwa had done me the honor to repose in me. I told him that I had no hesitation to give my sentiments on the subjects in discussion, but the little utility of which they could be to the Paishwa who had so much more comprehensive view of them, than I could possibly obtain. It appeared to me, however, that the resolution which he had taken was of the last importance to his interests, and even to his political existence. That he need not apprehend the censure of my Government for attempting to recover his rights and authority which had been so notoriously infringed, but it was highly incumbent for his own safety, previously to ensure the means of success. Of this the Moonshy did not appear to be very diffident, and though he did not expressly detail on what provision the Paishwa's hopes were founded, I understood from the tenor of his discourse, that he relied chiefly on the junction of Holkar, and the general disaffection of Sindia's troops

In both these resources, the Paishwa will probably be disappointed. Holkar is likely to remain neuter, and the Hindostanny troops seem to be faithfully attached to Sindia

It does not appear that the project of rescuing the women from Sindia's escort was concerted with the Paishwa, but that he has availed himself of the event to extricate himself from the ascendancy of the former

Dowlut Row detached a force to bring Nana Furnavees to his camp. It is supposed that the insurgents meditate an attack upon the detachment on its return. This is by no means improbable, considering the danger to which the Paishwa would be exposed by a coalition between Sindia and the old Minister

I asked the Moonshy if the Paishwa was not apprehensive of the effects of such a measure. He acknowledged that it would be extremely prejudicial to Bajy Row's authority, but thought that Sindia could give Nana no security which would induce him to confide in him. It should be considered, however, that Sindia has no means of paying his troops but by

the assistance of Nana's supporting him with treasure, and Nana has no means of returning to power but by the aid of Sindia's force. These mutual wants may induce the one to part with his money, and the other to leave him in the un-controlled direction of the government.

In the course of this commotion nothing has appeared hitherto which corroborates the intelligence contained in Captain Kirkpatrick's letter to the Governor-General of the 21st instant, para. 10th, except the defection of Narain Row Bukshy, and that was evidently unpremeditated, and occasioned by a complaint of Serjajee Ghatky that he had not done his duty in the action with Muzuffer Khan, and for which he was informed that Sindia threatened to put him to death.

The inhabitants of Poona are in great consternation on account of the fresh jealousy and animosity which this affair has excited between the Paishwa and Sindia, lest the latter should attack the city and make it a scene of rapine and massacre.

I sincerely lament the distractions in this state which utterly disqualify it for affording us any assistance in a war with our inveterate enemies in India, and which, from the proclamation of the Governor of Mauritius, transmitted to me last night by Mr. Duncan, I suppose to be inevitable and immediate.

The Paishwa is very desirous of entering into new engagements with us, but with a view to establish his own authority. To obtain this object he would, no doubt, form an offensive alliance with us against Tippoo, but this would be useless to us until the first purpose was effected.

Whether it is practicable to attain our object in such an alliance by making it subsequent to his, I cannot pretend to determine, but I have little doubt of the first being secured by the appearance of a strong British force at Poona.

Sindia could on no pretence object to an offensive alliance for the avowed purpose of punishing the aggression of Tippoo, or to the march of our troops hither in consequence. Nor if he did, would he be able to oppose the latter.

I have introduced this subject only as matter of information if you should deem it expedient to renew your alliance with the Paishwa under existing circumstances, and not as a formal proposal, nor with any decided opinion of its utility.

Although the 13th article of the treaty of triple alliance between the Company, the Nizam, and the Paishwa, binds the confederates to mutual assistance in case of a future attack upon either by Tippoo, our claim to assistance from Bajy Row might be evaded, as the treaty does not expressly include heirs and successors. Neither is the quantum of aid to be afforded by either party specified, an omission which might render the stipulation nugatory. For these reasons, and because Bajy Row

would prefer a new treaty in his own name to that entered into by his predecessor, and indeed because it might comprize many new objects, I have suggested a new alliance in case you should desire to engage the Mahratta State in our cause.

No. 107—The dispute of the ladies with Sindia, their project of deposing him and raising another heir to the Sindia's State and the nuptials of Chimna Appa are reported to the Governor General.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 8th June 1798.

Honourable Sir,

Since I had the honour to address you last on the 1st instant no material transaction has occurred in this quarter. The general attention is engaged by the extraordinary dispute between Dowlut Row Sindia and his father's widows, and all other business and interests remain in suspense.

Little or no progress, however, has been made for several days past towards terminating this quarrel, either by arms or reconciliation.

Sindia, who has an undoubted superiority of force, declines or delays to use it, either because he thinks it discreditable or distrusts the fidelity of his troops, or because he hopes to adjust the dispute by negotiation.

Proposals from the ladies for an accommodation have been received through the Paishwa, the conditions of which are substantially the same as I stated in my last address, and I learn that Sindia shews an inclination to accede to them, except in one article, the receiving Muzuffer Khan again into his service.

The Paishwa's mediation is insidious, he derives too many advantages from the continuation of the dispute to be supposed sincere in his endeavours to put an end to it.

Sindia is not ignorant or at least unsuspicious of the Paishwa's desire to avail himself of this family dissension, nor of his duplicity in affecting the character of a mediator.

By what considerations he is hitherto restrained from using the power which he possesses to prevent or defeat the Paishwa's designs and thereby to secure himself, it is not easy to discover. But there can be little doubt of his having these purposes in contemplation. And I see no adequate preparation on the part of the Paishwa to guard against the effects of it.

I am indeed informed that the Paishwa meditates a retreat after the marriage of his brother, with an intention of openly declaring against Sindia, and of investing another member of that house with the Raaj.

The person intended to be raised to the Musnud in the room of Dowlut Row, is to be selected by the principal Begum of Mahajee Sindia and who, it is supposed, will make choice of a youth, possibly the son of Maunajee Phaukria, who held the Raajj several years under the authority of Ragonaut Row, father of Bajy Row, but was deposed by the Paishwa Madharow and succeeded by Mahdajee Sindia.

The celebration of Chimna Appa's nuptials commenced yesterday. I received the honour of an invitation to them, but on account of the great crowd and confusion on the first night it was recommended to me to defer attending until this evening.

The detachment sent to Ahmednugar to bring Nana Furnavees to Sindia's camp, is returned without him.

No. 108—The arrival of Earl Mornington is communicated to the Resident at Poona.

FROM—SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 18th May 1798.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Right Honourable the Earl of Mornington arrived at this Presidency yesterday evening and this day took his seat as Governor General.

No. 109—The growing tension between Sindia and the Peshwa and the apprehended troubles following therefrom are explained in this letter by the Resident for the information of the Governor General.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 12th June 1798.

My Lord,

Since the dispatch of my last public address dated the 8th instant an event has taken place which threatens to rend the veil that has so long, though slightly, concealed the inveterate jealousy and animosity subsisting between the Paishwa and Dowlut Rhow Sindia, and their mutual desire of revenge.

On the 8th Sindia detached five battalions of sepoys with a proportion of artillery under the command of Major Du Prat, a Frenchman, under the pretence of foraging, to attack in the night and by surprise the camp of the Begums and Emrut Row.

The detachment failed in its object of surprising the party but proceeded to attack it, and after an action of some hours which does not

seem to have been maintained with much spirit on either side, the detachment retreated and was pursued to some distance by the cavalry of the insurgents but with little effect

The Paishwa remonstrated to Sindia on this attack on his troops under the command of his brother as a violation of his allegiance to the state, and a personal insult to himself. To which Sindia has answered, that Bajy Row must be conscious of the services which he has rendered him, and of the ungenerous return which he is now meditating for them, and that to this consciousness he referred the Paishwa for the explanation and for the justification of his conduct.

It may be expected that after so plain a declaration from Sindia of his knowledge of the Paishwa's intrigues, it will be followed by some immediate and decisive measures to defeat them. And I am informed, that an attack on the city and the seizure of the persons of Bajy Row and Chimna Appa have been for some days past the subjects of discussion in Sindia's councils.

I cannot discover any effectual preparation made by the Paishwa for his own security, although he has scarcely attempted to conceal the part which he has taken in fomenting the dissensions in Sindia's family and the discontents in his army. He may, however, have resources of which I am ignorant, or may at least have provided for his personal safety, since he had the choice of his own conduct in this dispute, and adopted it with premeditation.

In this state of the rival parties, it is clear to my conviction that an immediate and violent change must take place in the removal either of Bajy Row or Sindia from Poona. If the latter is compelled to retreat, his ruin must ensue. The Paishwa may become more formidable by retiring from the direct control of Sindia, and summoning the great vassals of the state to his standard.

But in any great commotions in the native governments the conduct of those who direct them is in general so capricious and inconstant, that it is difficult to form a true judgment of the final result.

A report has just reached me of considerable alarm in Sindia's camp of a general attack intended upon it by the troops of the Paishwa and Begums, and of dispositions being made to repel it, but considering the superiority of Sindia's force, he can hardly be seriously apprehensive of such intention and has probably circulated the report himself to conceal some design of his own.

Dowlut Row has sent another deputation to treat with Nana Furnavees.

Sindia makes no secret of his intention to solicit Tippoo for succour. Perhaps this declaration is only made with a view to intimidate his enemies. But admitting him to be serious and that he could obtain the aid which he requires, it would be afforded only on conditions which would greatly

aggrandize the power of the Mysorean prince at the expense of this state, and be ultimately dangerous to our security.

For these reasons I purpose to watch with all the enquiry and vigilance of which my situation will afford me the means, the progress of the intercourse between these two powers and remonstrate with Dowlut Row against his forming an alliance, which cannot fail to give umbrage and alarm to the British Government, and which is incompatible with his relation to it as guarantee of the treaty of Salbhye.

No. 110—Earl Mornington intimating to the Peshwa his assumption of the Co.'s Government conveys his usual expressions of freindship and goodwill.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,
TO—THE PESHWA.

Fort William, written the 21st May 1798.

You have already been informed of my nomination to the Government of the Honourable Company's possessions in the East Indies by the letters of Sir John Shore and Sir Alured Clarke. I have now the pleasure to inform you that I arrived at Calcutta on the 17th instant and have taken charge of the affairs of the Honourable Company as Governor General.

I am happy in the present opportunity of assuring you that it will be always my study to cultivate and improve the harmony subsisting between the two states, to establish the utmost degree of individual friendship and attachment with you, and to maintain the Company's reputation and seek the confidence of all the princes and chiefs of Hindostan by a strict attention to the principles of justice and good faith, and adherence to engagements, and I hope that believing me sincerely disposed to cultivate your esteem and regard, you will constantly favour me with letters.

To Cashee Row Holkar, to Dowlut Row Sindia, and to Bhow Bukshy of the same tenor and date as the foregoing.

No. 111—The prospect of a conciliation on mutual concessions between the Sindia and the Peshwa is reported to the Governor General.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 15th June 1798.

My Lord,

The dispute between Dowlut Row Sindia and the ladies which entirely engrosses the public attention here, has undergone no material change since I had the honor to address you last. But from the increased consternation which prevails in the city, and the precautions

taken by the Paishwa for its protection, I conclude that a speedy decision of it is expected by Sindia's determination to deprive the Paishwa of the power to protract it.

It is not probable, however, that Sindia will take his final measures until he knows the result of his advances to Nana Furnavees for a coalition. If this should not take place his affairs will be but little improved by the termination of his family quarrel.

Hitherto the Paishwa appears in the character of a mediator between Sindia and the disaffected party, and as he probably cannot afford the latter such support as would give a superiority in the contest, and is, perhaps, disappointed in his expectation of foreign aid, he may at last really desire to effect an accommodation.

Although there can be little doubt of Sindia's success if he has recourse to arms, it is still hazardous. He distrusts the fidelity of Major Filose who commands a brigade of 9 battalions of sepoys, and the attack on the city, though not protected by fortifications, would not be unattended with difficulty and danger, as there is a considerable force within it, the streets are narrow, and the entrances to them defended by troops and cannon. These considerations and the risque of foreign interference, if the dispute is protracted, will, I think, induce him to prefer conciliation on mutual concessions, to which the other party, destitute of money and hopeless of further assistance, will be glad to assent.

Such is the inference which I draw from the apparent situation of the parties. But the restoration of Nana Furnavees may give a new form and substance to the contest and be decisive of the fortunes of Bajy Row and Sindia.

No. 112—The Resident informs the Governor General of an approach to him by the Peshwa for his mediation in his dispute with Sindia and the affair of the ladies. He adverts to the likelihood of the subversion of power, either of the Peshwa or Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 19th June 1798.

My Lord,

Since I had last the honor to address Your Lordship on the 15th instant, the troops attached to the cause of Dowlut Row Sindia's female relations and those of the Paishwa under Emrut Row, have made a movement which appears preparatory to a decision of their differences either by negotiation or arms.

On the 16th instant in the evening these troops encamped within a mile of the city between the two rivers and about the distance of four miles from Sindia's camp, having between it and theirs the City, one of the rivers, and Holkar's encampment.

I had on the 17th the honor to deliver Your Lordship's letter to the Paishwa in his Durbar, who expressed the greatest satisfaction at this mark of Your Lordship's early attention to him and promised an immediate effect to it. At my taking leave he said, he would send his confidential Moonshy Gopal Rhow to me on the next day to confer with me on business of consequence, and requested my particular consideration of what he should impart.

The Moonshy attended me at the time appointed, and began his conversation with observing that the Paishwa, in the various attempts which were made to defeat his succession and which had actually long protracted it, had experienced the greatest advantage from the apparent sentiments of our Government in favour of his rights, and he trusted that the same sentiments would be manifested on every future invasion of them.

That, at this time, Sindia meditated his total destruction for no other reason than his affording protection to his family against the most injurious treatment, and to his even brutal outrage of his servants, and for requiring a reconciliation on terms equally prudent and honorable for Sindia as well as for his oppressed relations. In this alarming situation the Paishwa relied on my advice and assistance on the part of the Company's government.

Having assured the Moonshy of my earnest desire to render the Paishwa any service in my power consistent with the duties of my station, I desired to know in what manner he proposed that my counsel or exertions should be employed to extricate him from his present difficulties with respect to Sindia.

To this the Moonshy answered, that Bajy Row was anxious to remove from Sindia's mind the suspicion of his fomenting the discontents of his family for the purpose of subverting his power. The Moonshy asserted that the Paishwa in the protection which he had permitted Emrut Row to afford the ladies, and the security which he had required for them, had been actuated by no other motives than a regard to the honor of the family and the stability and prosperity of Dowlut Row's Government; but that to the requisitions which had been made to Sindia for obtaining these objects repeated refusals had been given, and no better security offered, on the part of Sindia, to the women for their return than his promise to treat them well.

Here the Moonshy remarked, that it would reflect highly on the justice and honor of the Paishwa to abandon the ladies who relied upon and had a right to his protection, to the mercy of those persons whose treatment of them had excited universal indignation and abhorrence, and as Sindia was deaf to every argument of justice, honor or humanity, and equally insensible of his true interest, nothing remained but to compel him to accede to the reasonable propositions which had been offered to him. But the only means of compulsion which the Paishwa proposed, was to obtain the declaration of Mr. Dugeon, the commander of the

regular Brigade, and on whom Sindia principally relies, in favour of the requisitions, and in favour of the ladies, which the Paishwa supposes, must determine him to accept of them

It was to promote this object that the Paishwa desired my advice and assistance in persuading Mr. Dugeon to recommend to Dowlut Rhaw an accommodation with the adverse party on the propositions which it had submitted to him

I told the Moonshy that I was much concerned that I could not be of any service to the Paishwa in the mode which he suggested, that I was in no degree of intimacy with Mr. Dugeon, and knew not what influence he possesses in Sindia's councils in opposition to our views and interests, and that I also knew that he had been gained by the junto, whose dismission was an inadmissible condition to reconciliation on the part of the women and their adherents, that I thought it would not only be fruitless but dangerous to the Paishwa and to the party whose cause he supports, to attempt engaging Mr Dugeon in it.

The Moonshy then asked me if I could not myself advise Dowlut Row to the effect above mentioned. In answer to this question, I reminded the Moonshy of the ineffectual attempt which I had made at the desire of the Paishwa, and with impartial friendship to recommend to Sindia an honorable adjustment of the dispute; that besides Sindia's reluctance to the interference of strangers in a family quarrel, he was so watched and surrounded by the ascendant faction, that no person could have access to him but in the presence of one or more of them, and that if he persisted in retaining the obnoxious ministers in power, I saw no means of terminating the dispute but by arms or the unqualified submission of his opponents, that I should be happy to give the Paishwa, in his present situation, such indication of my attention, respect, and regard for his rights and interests, as he thought conduced to his advantage in the residency of my predecessor; but that in any other way I thought it utterly impracticable for me to promote his views

The Moonshy appeared satisfied with my reasons for declining to interfere in the manner proposed, but thought some other means of engaging Dugeon in his interests might be tried

I am doubtful, after all this appearance in the Paishwa of conciliation, whether he sincerely desires it His distrust of Sindia is incurable. He will never think his authority established, or his person secure, so long as that chief retains his power, and I am strongly inclined to believe that in this dispute he ultimately aims at his deposal

In the mean time the Paishwa obtains considerable advantages by the quarrel being protracted. He appears to be the umpire in it, which gives him a degree of consequence and respectability beyond what he has hitherto experienced, and he is relieved from Sindia's encroachments on or interference with his authority.

Sindia perfectly comprehends the motives of the Paishwa's conduct and the consequences to be apprehended from it, and will not fail to secure himself, and to take vengeance whenever he supposes he is in a condition to execute his purposes. Nor is he remiss in his efforts to counteract and defeat the Paishwa's projects. By his instigation Sahou Rajah, the nominal head of the Mahratta empire, who is a state prisoner in the hill-fort of Sittarah, has contrived to gain the garrison to his obedience, and has driven out that of the Paishwa from the town below. It is supposed that Sindia intends to revive the obsolete sovereignty of the Sahou Rajah, and under his authority to appoint another Paishwa.

These mutual injuries must finally terminate in the subversion of the power, of either the Paishwa or Sindia. But as the former is not so well prepared to execute his schemes as his adversary, he would probably choose to defer them if Sindia would accept of the conditions tendered by the party which he supports, as these would give him an influence in Dowlut Row's councils, which would considerably lighten his dependence on that assuming chieftain, but to those conditions Sindia is not yet reduced to submit, and in the present state of insincere negotiation and deceitful profession both parties may remain, until one of them supposes it has a decided superiority of force.

Yesterday the Paishwa visited his brother Emrut Row and Luchmy Bhye, the first in rank of the late Sindia's wives, in their camp, with whom he had a long conference, at which Narain Row Bukshy, Muzuffer Khan and other leaders of the insurgent party assisted. The professed object of this meeting was pacification. Of what actually passed, I have no information.

I am told that the Paishwa has proposed to mediate between Dowlut Rhow and Nana Furnavees and that the proposal has been accepted. I believe that neither party is deceived by this affectation of confidence, but no doubt (it conduces) to some immediate purposes of both.

No. 113—Col. Palmer explains the position of Sindia's domestic dispute and the approach of several parties to him for his interposition. Palmer reports his interview with Amritrao.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 23rd June 1798.

My Lord,

The state of affairs in general at this place, and Sindia's domestic dispute remains nearly the same as when I had the honour to address Your Lordship last, and still menaces an important revolution in the government of that chieftain or of the Paishwa.

Dowlut Row appears obstinate by being averse to an accommodation on the conditions demanded by the disaffected party and has even receded from one or two points, which he had shown a disposition to admit.

He is probably encouraged to this resistance by the approach of a considerable reinforcement of troops from Hindostan, and by the consent of Nana Furnavees to repair to his camp.

I understand, however, that the old Minister refuses to resume any share in the administration on the plea of age and infirmities, and proposes in his visit to Sindia only to give advice. The latter does not want Nana's counsel but his money, and this he has no prospect of obtaining, but by restoring him to power; nor is it likely that Nana would agree to an interview with a declared reservation, which must render it ineffectual to the purposes of Sindia. I am therefore inclined to believe, that his professed reluctance and inability to engage in public business is calculated to excite Sindia's anxiety and induce him to grant such security as will leave Nana in the independent exercise of the administration.

The Paishwa and the chiefs who have engaged in the cause of the women have, within these two or three days, manifested considerable alarm at Sindia's positive rejection of the terms offered to him, yet have shewn no inclination to relax in them, and talk of risking every extremity, rather than yield to requisitions which they deem just and honorable. I am, however, very doubtful of their resolution.

I have received repeated messages from the Paishwa to press my interposition with Sindia for an amicable termination of the quarrel, to which I have answered that should that chief be disposed to admit of my advice, I should have no hesitation in recommending to him to compose these distractions which weaken his Government, and destroy his domestic happiness, by dismissing those unworthy favourites who are the cause of his troubles, and whose general conduct has nearly ruined his affairs and brought universal odium on his character.

Bhow Bukshy is entirely disposed to second any efforts which I may be permitted to make for restoring tranquillity to Sindia's family and government. He depends in a great degree upon the consideration in which he appears to be held by our Government for his security and influence, and as he is at enmity with the prevailing party at Sindia's Durbar, he will heartily assist in effecting their removal.

It appears to me of considerable importance to the British interests and security in India, that the power of this state should not be reduced to so weak a condition as to render its alliance useless, or be subjected to the ascendancy of Sindia, who is disposed to form connections both offensive and dangerous to us by the influence of his present advisers.

That one of these situations will be the result of a continuance of the present contest or of its decision by arms, seems highly probable, and indeed, inevitable. And it is on this consideration that I hope Your Lordship will approve of my interfering in the way of advice to reconcile the parties, on terms which may, by giving the Paishwa an influence in Sindia's councils, restore the authority which appertains to his office, and deprive Sindia of that which he has usurped.

I yesterday made a visit to Emrut Row in his tents at his particular request, who in a private conversation stated to me, that his motives for the part which he has taken in Sindia's family quarrel, were to protect the ladies from unmerited insult and oppression, and to obtain them reparation by friendly mediation; that in pursuit of this object he had refrained from hostilities, though provoked by the insults of Sindia's troops who had repeatedly fired on his camp, and had hitherto restrained the insurgents from attacking his detachments. They could easily have overpowered them. But as Sindia would not offer any security to the ladies for their return, and declared his resolution to punish their adherents, and as they were destitute of money or other resources for subsistence, they were driven to despair, and would determine their fate by an immediate appeal to arms. They had nevertheless some hopes that my intercession might prevail on Dowlut Row to grant them secure and reasonable terms of accommodation, and for this, if I would use it, they would wait two or three days.

I made the same answer to this suggestion of Emrut Row as I had given to the Paishwa, expressing my wish to promote the desired reconciliation and my doubts of success, even if Sindia should admit of my interference.

Towards the close of the conversation Narain Row Bukshy and Muzuffer Khan, the principal leaders of the commotion, made their appearance. They wished to have entered into a detail of their conduct and situation, but as this could only have been a repetition of circumstances already and minutely known to me, I declined hearing it. I referred them for my sentiments to Emrut Row.

I have desired of Bhow Bukshy to discover, if he can, without direct enquiry, whether Dowlut Row would receive with candour and complacence, my sentiments on his present situation and the consequences which it is likely to produce, with my opinion of the means by which they may be honorably averted. And unless I am informed that he is entirely disposed to receive such sentiments and advice in the friendly and impartial light in which they are intended, I shall not attempt to obtrude them upon him.

It is not very probable that any advice or persuasion will have much weight with a person of Dowlut Row's character in opposition to the gratification of his passions, and to the interests of those who have a

complete ascendancy over his mind. But it is possible that he may be in some measure restrained by the declaration of a respectable ally, who does not wish that the Mahratta Empire should be torn to pieces by civil discords.

Having represented to Dowlut Row that the reports of his intention to connect himself with Tippoo could not fail to excite some uneasiness in Your Lordship's mind, as knowing that the services of that prince would not be gratuitous, and that the compensation for them in whatever mode it might be made, could not fail to aggrandize his power, and encourage those designs against us of which he had never lost sight, I requested to be informed of the truth of those rumours, and of the objects of such a connection if he really had it in contemplation.

To this requisition, Sindia very readily answered that from his accession to the Raaj an intercourse of civility had subsisted between him and Tippoo, and was still maintained. But that it was confined to mutual expression of esteem and regard, in which no subject of business had ever been introduced. Nor had he at this time any serious intention of alliance with, or of requiring aid from the Sultan, though he had encouraged the belief of it to retaliate on his opponents, who had used the same artifice to intimidate him, and that I might assure Your Lordship he neither had, nor would, form any engagements which might be detrimental or offensive to the British Government.

No. 114—Col Palmer explains why the Peshwa in his letter did not acknowledge the present of his father's jewels

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE PERSIAN TRANSLATOR AT FORT WILLIAM

Poona, 27th June 1798.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a Khareeta from the Paishwa to the Right Honourable the Governor General in answer to His Lordship's letter, notifying his arrival.

The Paishwa, at my suggestion, has promised to write a suitable acknowledgment for the present of his father's jewels, but as the letter which accompanied them from the Governor General, was directed to the late Paishwa Madharow, and I thought it would be a bad compliment to inform Bajy Row that the presents were not originally intended for him, I did not deliver it. And this circumstance has created some reluctance in him in point of etiquette to write upon the subject.

No. 115—Col. Palmer reports a surprise attack on Amritrao's camp by one of Sindia's brigades, in consequence of which the Peshwa and the citizens of Poona had grown nervous.

FROM—COL. PALMER.

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 27th June 1798.

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 23rd instant the contest between Dowlut Row Sindia and his opponents has taken a more hostile and decisive appearance.

On the 25th about noon, Sindia's regular brigade commanded by Mr. Dugeon, under colour of protecting the concluding ceremony of the Mohurram, advanced suddenly upon Emrut Row's camp, and opened a fire from 25 pieces of cannon. The insurgents though surprized, sustained and returned the cannonade for about an hour, when upon the brigades advancing, they abandoned their camp and baggage which Sindia's troops entirely plundered and destroyed, and then without further pursuit retired.

Emrut Row retreated to the distance of about two miles and at night reoccupied his former ground.

During the action, about 500 of Sindia's cavalry deserted to the opposite party.

Had Sindia's detachment pushed directly into Emrut Row's camp instead of commencing a cannonade at a great distance, it would, in all probability, have totally ruined his party as it was completely surprized and unprepared for resistance.

On the other hand, had the cavalry boldly charged the detachment, I have little doubt but they would have routed it. But they made no efforts whatever.

The latter with a view to retrieve their credit, passed the river yesterday in three divisions to attack Sindia's camp, or to insult it with menace.

No assistance was sent by the Paishwa to his brother. He seems to have been wholly occupied in providing for his own security and that of the city.

Kaushi Row Holkar took no part in the action which passed close to his camp, but his troops were under arms, and his baggage removed to a secure distance.

This affair of little immediate consequence may be productive of considerable effects by its operation on the minds of those who are disposed to support the cause against Sindia, either by suggesting the necessity of

affording it more effectual aid, or by withdrawing from it altogether in despair of its being conducted with judgment or spirit. In either persuasion, the result is likely to be a speedy decision of the contest.

The Paishwa is negotiating for succour from the Nizam, but with little appearance hitherto of any engagements being concluded.

No. 116—The Resident reports a treaty of offensive and defensive alliance concluded by the Peshwa with the Nizam.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 30th June 1798

My Lord,

As I am persuaded that Your Lordship will regard with a considerable degree of interest the commotions which appear to involve the fate of this empire once so formidable, and recently of so much importance in our political system and transactions, I watch their progress with all possible attention, and with much solicitude to make such observations and reflections on the situation, characters, and views of those who are engaged in them, as they may afford you early and probable conjectures of their issue.

Dowlut Row Sindia has not yet derived any apparent advantage from his successful attack on the camp of Emrut Row and the insurgents on the 25th. These maintain their position, and by their vicinity and superiority in cavalry are enabled to harass his camp, and intercept his supplies.

It appears unaccountable that Sindia with such a decided superiority of force as he supposes himself to possess, should submit to the discredit and inconveniences to which he is daily exposed, and to the danger of augmenting the number and power of his enemies by protracting the dispute. His first attempt has shown that he is not restrained by any sense of tenderness or respect for his female relations, or any deference for the authority of the Paishwa. Nor can I obtain information of a single circumstance on which to form a reasonable opinion of the cause of his forbearance. I therefore conclude that it will be of short duration.

One of the consequences which I expressed to Your Lordship of my expectation from the event of the action above mentioned, has actually taken place. On the 28th Kaushī Rhow Holkar in person joined Emrut Row with all his cavalry, but his infantry have not yet moved from their encampment.

Little doubt could be entertained of Kaushi Row's favoring Sindia's opponents as an hereditary enmity subsisted between their houses. But I believe that his opinion of the inequality of the contest makes him an unwilling auxiliary, and will render him of little service to the cause which he has ostensibly espoused, and which he seems to have been forced into by his peculiar situation between the troops of the Paishwa in the city, and Emrut Row's camp.

The Paishwa has shown more firmness in support of the opposition to Sindia than was expected from his general character of inconstancy and irresolution.

Bhow Bukshy has for several days past, intended to visit me for the purpose of conferring with me on the state of Sindia's affairs, but has been prevented by the fear of being intercepted by the parties of Muzuffer Khan's horse. I have now obtained for him a passport from the Paishwa, and expect to see him this day or tomorrow.

I shall, through this Minister, convey to Sindia my firm conviction of the necessity of his immediately composing the dissensions which subsist between him, his family, and the Paishwa, on terms which will be honourable and advantageous to himself, and, at the same time, securely restore his parents to their former respectable situation and give independence to the Paishwa.

I am informed that the Rajah of Kolhapur has recommended it to Tippoo to avail himself of the distraction in this state, and proposed to join him in an invasion of the Paishwa's territories; but that the Sultan has rejected his advances.

It is reported in the city that Nana Furnavees is on his way to Sindia's camp.

Anund Row, one of the Nizam's Vakeels at this Court, has this instant been with me to impart a treaty concluded between him and his colleague Sheshaudry Pundit, on the part of their Master with the Paishwa. The Vakeel read to me the articles of which it is composed, and of which I proceed to relate the substance from memory. I will endeavour to obtain a copy of it for Your Lordship's more particular information. It is not, however, conclusive until ratified by the Nizam.

The treaty is offensive and defensive in its general construction, but specifically confirms, in the first place, the engagements finally concluded between the Nizam and the Paishwa at the departure of Azim-ul-Omrah from Poona. The next article stipulates the aid of 10,000 horse and the same number of infantry, with a proportion of artillery, to be supplied by the Nizam to the Paishwa, within 15 days after the ratification of the treaty, for the purpose of supporting the Paishwa against Sindia.

For this succour the Paishwa yields to the Nizam in perpetuity, a territory producing eight lacks of annual revenue.

The Nizam engages also to support the Paishwa against any encroachment on his authority by Nana Furnavees. And the Paishwa on his part promises full security to the person of that Minister, and to assign a lack of rupees annually for his maintenance, if he will renounce all interference in public affairs.

Ragojee Bhoonsla is considered a party in this alliance, in consequence of his being such to the treaty concluded by Azim-ul-Omrah and he is to be invited to co-operate in its objects. On his junction the Paishwa engages to transfer to him, by sunnud, the province of Gurrah Mundelah.

Your Lordship will conclude from this event, that the Paishwa will not be very solicitous to effect an accommodation with Sindia until he learns the Nizam's determination, and it is not now very practicable for Sindia to bring the dispute to a speedy decision by arms, as the river (on which there are no boats) is become unfordable for artillery.

I have not time by this post, to offer to Your Lordship any remarks on the advantages or disadvantages of this treaty to the parties respectively. But perhaps, a more leisurely consideration may enable me to throw such light upon it, as will be conducive to your better information.

No. 117—Palmer conveys to the Governor General the substance of his interview with Bhau Bakshy on the subject of a compromise being effected between Sindia and his female relations

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

Poona, 4th July 1798

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 30th ultimo, the confederate chiefs engaged in the cause of Mahajee Sindia's family, passed the eastern river with their troops for the purpose of preserving their communication with the city on the south side, and within two miles of Sindia's army they are now encamped.

Bhow Bukshy did not make his visit to me until yesterday. The purport of it was to convey to me Dowlut Rhow Sindia's desire to accommodate this family dispute, and all differences with the Paishwa. On this subject he wishes to be acquainted with my sentiments and to receive my advice which, he was satisfied, I would give with due attention to his reputation and security. He assumed some merit for this disposition to treat with enemies whom he had the power to subdue, and which he hoped I would consider as a proof of his sincerity.

I expressed great satisfaction at the disposition shown by Sindia to restore tranquillity in his family and in the state, and made my acknowledgments for the confidence which he professed in my inclination to assist him in his great object.

With a view to impress forcibly on his mind the necessity of composing the distractions of the empire, and regulating his own government, I stated to Bhow Bukshy, without reserve, the errors, violence, and injustice of Sindia's conduct or that of his Ministers, in all its relations from his accession to the Raj to the present moment, the opinion which the world entertained of it, and the ruinous consequences which must inevitably ensue, unless speedily and effectually reformed.

I endeavoured to convince him that his real interests consisted in the just and prudent administration of his own authority and possession, and that his encroachments on the rights and supremacy of the Paishwa could only end in the subversion of the Mahratta power, and with it, of his own.

Bhow Bukshy having assented to the truth of the facts which I had recapitulated, and to the justness of the deductions which I drew from them, asked me on what conditions I would recommend it to his master, to effect an immediate reconciliation with the Paishwa and the party whose cause he supported.

To this question I answered without hesitation that I thought Sindia might not only, without derogation to his dignity or detriment to his interests, but with reputation for justice and clemency, accept all the propositions tendered by the Paishwa. That these required no more than security and moderate reparation for the unmerited injuries and outrages which the ladies of his father's family had sustained, and a return of service to those who had on principle protected them.

I observed, that the dismissal of Sindia's present ministers, which is the reparation required by the ladies, was indispensable to the return of the latter, as they were the authors and perpetrators of the disgraceful, and indeed inhuman treatment which they had experienced. That this transaction was regarded with universal horror and detestation, and in effect, the requisition was as much calculated for the honour and interests of Sindia as for the security of his parents, since the rapine and cruelty of these men had brought a general odium on his Government and name, without producing the smallest relief to his necessities.

The Bhow acknowledged the truth of these remarks and thought that Sindia himself was so well convinced of it, that there would be no great difficulty in prevailing upon him to dismiss these ministers; that he would readily assign a Jagheer for the suitable maintenance of the ladies, but was inflexible in refusing to receive any of their adherents into his service, both on account of distrust of their fidelity and the encouragement which it would give to future revolt.

On this article I believe that the Paishwa will relax, with the exception of a few individuals, as he can admit the rest into his own service, and thus the difference may be compromised

Another condition with which Sindia seems determined not to comply, is that of parting with the youngest wife of the late Mahajee Sindia, but this, I imagine will not be insisted upon

Bhow Bukshy left me with assurances of enforcing my arguments and opinions with Sindia to the utmost of his influence and ability.

I learned in the course of this conversation with the Bhow, that Dowlut Row has no serious intention of trusting Nana Furnavees with power again, and that the old Minister is equally insincere in his professions of declining it

No. 118—The Resident communicates the intention of the Peshwa and his brother Amritrao to retreat from Poona for personal safety from Sindia's attack. Mr. Tone is mentioned to be in Amritrao's service.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th July 1798.

My Lord,

Every appearance indicates a crisis in the dispute between the Paishwa and Dowlut Row Sindia

My conversation with Bhow Bukshy on the 3rd has been the subject of a long discussion at Sindia's Durbar, in which my advice and opinions were supported by all his councillors, except those few to whose power and interests the conditions of accommodation which I recommended were unfavourable, and Sindia himself so evidently concurred in the expediency of adopting those conditions, that Serjajee Ghautky declared his intention to retire.

But I have reason to believe that Sindia dissembled, or if he really was of the opinion which he expressed, that he has recurred to his determination of supporting his present ministers at all hazards, and treat Serjajee and his faction with his usual kindness and confidence, and they seem to possess an irresistible influence over his mind

Negotiation is, however, still kept open and I learn that Mr Drugeon is deputed by Sindia to treat finally with the confederates this day

But it seems that the latter do not entertain any great hopes of an amicable issue, since the Paishwa and all the inhabitants of the city who have anything considerable to lose, have removed their jewels and other valuable effects to a hill fort at 7 miles distant from Poona, and the baggage of Emrut Row's army has been sent off to the northward.

I received a message from Emrut Row this morning by Major Tone, an English Officer in his service, informing me that he should be obliged to retreat in the course of two or three days, unless an accommodation should take place in the meantime, and that it would be indispensable the Paishwa should accompany him. His intention is to proceed to the Nizam's frontier and he wished to have my opinion on this measure.

I answered Mr. Tone that I was not qualified by a sufficient knowledge of the Paishwa's actual situation and resources, to give a decided opinion on a question of so much moment. But it seemed to depend on two principal considerations whether he was sure of support from the Nizam, and whether he could maintain himself here without it. If he could rely on the first or despaired of the latter, there was no choice but to retreat, as in the former case, he must march to effect a junction with the Nizam's force; in the other, for his own security.

I observed to Mr. Tone that further consequences, though not of such immediate importance as the safety of the Paishwa's person, were likely to ensue from his withdrawing from the capital. Sindia might affect to consider it as an abdication of the Government, and proclaim another Paishwa under the sanction of the Sahou Raja, a measure which would probably deprive Baajy Row of a great part of his revenues, by encouraging the aumils to withhold it on the pretext of this new authority.

Mr. Tone admitted the weight of this argument, but said that the Paishwa's retreat appeared to Emrut Rhow and the other leaders of the party to be indispensable, and I have no doubt that it is determined upon.

Neither the Paishwa nor Emrut Row have given me any intimation of their desire that I should attend them or not in their retreat. But the duties of my station require my attendance on the Paishwa's person and Court unless he wishes to dispense with it.

An answer from Hyderabad to the preliminary treaty entered into with the Paishwa by the Nizam's Vakeels, may be expected within four or five days, and I suppose that the confederates will defer the execution of their retreat until it arrives.

This treaty as imparted to me by the Vakeel appeared to stipulate so little advantage to the Nizam in proportion to the services which he is to perform for the Paishwa, that I suspect the Vakeel to have suppressed some articles in the relation. It is not easy to believe that the Nizam's ministers would neglect such an opportunity of relieving their master from the disgraceful and vexatious tribute of choute imposed upon him by the Mahratta state, or if they have, that he will neglect it himself; whence I conclude that the Vakeels have obtained some separate articles in the Nizam's favour, which they have engaged not to disclose, or that the treaty will return greatly modified.

I am, however, of opinion, that the proposed alliance is so necessary to the Paishwa, and offers such important advantages to the Nizam, that there will be little difficulty in adjusting the terms, and that its accomplishment will place the two powers in nearly that state of equality which will best suit our political views and interests.

I am well informed that most of Sindia's kindred and of the old adherents of his family and government will join the confederates, if he finally rejects the impending pacification.

No. 119—Nana's release from confinement by Sindia and the probable effects of that measure are explained by Palmer in this letter.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th July 1798

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 7th instant no hostile operations have taken place between the troops of the Paishwa and Sindia, nor has any progress been made in the negotiations for peace.

Sindia's distress for money is so great that even his regular brigade on which alone he has any firm dependence, is in its fifth month of arrears, and very clamorous for subsistence. To this circumstances may be attributed his present inactivity I believe that his sole prospect of material relief is from Nana Furnavees who is now actually on the way to his camp

Moroba Furnavees, the cousin german and rival of Nana who had been in confinement during the whole ministry of the latter, is expected at Poona tomorrow, on the summons of the Paishwa But he possesses neither talents, wealth nor influence, to place him in any degree of successful competition with Nana

Should Nana Furnavees be prevailed upon to supply Sindia's pecuniary necessities and to form a political union with him the Paishwa will be compelled to retire from power, and another revolution in the state may be immediately expected. As the present distractions originated in the unprincipled ambition of this Minister, and although he has been the victim of his own injustice, his life and liberty are at the disposal of Sindia, he still seems to be the arbiter of the fate of the Empire by having secured treasure, which is at once indispensable and inaccessible to the Paishwa and Sindia.

Baajy Row, alarmed at the prospect of a coalition between his two most powerful and dangerous opponents, is endeavouring by the agency of some persons in Nana's confidence, to engage that Minister in his interests, whose dread of Sindia's power and whose experience of his violence and perfidy may dispose him rather to depend on the good faith and moderation of the Paishwa, if he must necessarily connect himself with one of them. But there are two great obstacles to his union with the Paishwa; the apparent inability of that prince to protect him, and the implacable resentment which he is supposed to entertain against the Minister for his repeated attempts to exclude him from the Musnud. The first obstacle would be removed by the conclusion of the proposed alliance between the Nizam and the Paishwa. The other, I apprehend, is insurmountable, unless the Paishwa would submit to Nana's being totally independent of him, although such in fact will be his situation, if he prefers the protection of Sindia.

I am, however, persuaded that Nana will accept of no conditions which Sindia may offer without the security of his immediately withdrawing into Hindostan, and this measure Sindia must know, would instantly and for ever deprive him of all influence in the administration of the state, yet so urgent and dangerous are his pecuniary wants, that he may be compelled to submit to it.

But whatever may be Nana's final determination, it will in all probability be decisive of the present extraordinary contest between the Paishwa and Sindia.

No. 120—*Palmer discusses a rumoured agreement between Sindia and Nana and points out the improbability about it.*

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 13th July 1798.

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 11th instant, the troops under Emrut Row and Sindia's discontented Sirdars, have moved about two coss to the southward professedly to prevent the disorders which they committed in the city, but as generally supposed, to avoid an attack which they apprehend Sindia might be encouraged to make on receiving money from Nana Furnavees to appease the clamours of this army.

Nana has not yet passed the Beemah river, nor has anything determinate transpired of his intentions; but from the frequent passing of agents between him and Sindia it is inferred that an agreement is in negotiation, and it is rumoured that he has, as a preliminary condition, engaged to supply Sindia immediately with 25 lakhs of rupees.

If such agreement should take place, the Paishwa must immediately retreat, or fall into the hands of Sindia. I believe that he has determined on the former, as his confidential Moonshy has been with me to learn my sentiments on the proposal which he wished to make to Your Lordship, for occasional military aid to the extent of five battalions to be employed as his service might require. The Moonshy brought no specific offers, wishing first to know whether the proposal was admissible.

I discouraged all hope of success in such an application by explaining to the Moonshy the principles of prudence, equity, and impartiality on which our Government invariably acted, in disputes between the native powers in which it was not called upon to take a part by its own rights or obligations, more especially, where the contending parties were our friends and allies, as I conceived must be the case in any hostilities which the Paishwa has now in contemplation. That we could never deem it just or honourable to put arms into the hands of our allies to destroy one another, nor prudent to excite jealousy of our ambition or avarice, by interfering in quarrels with which we had no direct concern. That on these principles we had steadily rejected the repeated solicitations of the Nizam for an additional auxiliary force, and that this consideration alone must preclude a compliance with the Paishwa's application, as referring to the immediate object of it, whether that might be the Nizam or Sindia.

At the same time, I assured the Moonshy of Your Lordship's firm adherence to the existing treaties of your Government with the Mahratta State, and wish to see it restored to order and tranquillity.

The Moonshy made no observations on this explanation and I have not heard since from the Paishwa.

I have not given any intimation to the Paishwa of the suggestion in my letter of the 1st June, para 19th, lest he should form fallacious hopes of succour upon it. And I wish to keep the question of aid as much out of discussion as possible, until Your Lordship shall have honoured me with your sentiments and instructions on the utility of co-operation with this state in the contingency of a war with Tippoo.

It is certain that no aid can be afforded by it unless the present distractions are composed, nor can the Paishwa recover his authority but by foreign assistance. We have little to expect from such a disposition of the government as would be the consequence of Sindia's obtaining the entire ascendancy in it. While this is his object, his connections are likely to be hostile to us. If he abandons it and returns to Hindostan he must remain in amity with us, and the Paishwa would be in a condition to supply us with a useful body of cavalry.

At this instant, an express from Hyderabad brings me advice, by a copy of Captain Kirkpatrick's letter to Your Lordship of the 4th instant, of the Nizam's having ratified the preliminary treaty concluded between his Vakeels and the Paishwa.

This important event will give a new turn to the contest between the Paishwa and Sindia, and in all probability deter Nana Furnavees from engaging with the latter which would close his prospects of pecuniary supply.

I am informed that Pursaram Bhow is released from his confinement and is collecting troops for the service of the Paishwa.

I observe by the 4th paragraph of Captain Kirkpatrick's letter to Your Lordship of the 1st instant, that Mee Allum had stated to him some uneasiness of Azim-ul-Omra at a report of my being in secret negotiations with the Paishwa for succours from the Company, and to detach Major Filose from the service of Sindia.

Had I in persuasion of its being conformable to the general views and interests of the state which I serve, entered into negotiations of the nature alluded to, I should not have judged it prudent to communicate them to Azim-ul-Omrah, as such communication would have tended to diminish the advantages which I might propose to derive from them by stimulating the Minister to offer his assistance also to the Paishwa, and of course to weaken his reliance on ours.

But neither of the supposed objects have entered into my discussions or contemplations in the conversations which I have had with the Paishwa's agent on the present embarrassments of his government.

No. 121—Col. Palmer communicates to the Governor General the approaches made to him by Nana Fadnis for the Resident's friendly advice and good offices in extricating him from the violence and degradation inflicted upon him by Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th July 1798.

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 13th instant, no material occurrence has passed between the contending parties here, nor have any circumstances transpired on which a reasonable judgment might be formed of the issue of their disputes, either as to time or manner.

Nana Furnavees is not yet arrived in Dowlut Row's camp. But I learn that he is advancing, though with professed reluctance and determination to take no part in the present troubles.

At the same time Sindia has sent for Baloo Tantia, who was lately his Prime Minister, the avowed opponent of Nana, and confined within the same fort with him,

Sindia's view in bringing these rival ministers to his Durbar is obviously to intimidate Nana by the appearance of restoring his enemy to power, as Balloo Tantia is unable to afford the smallest relief to his pecuniary distresses. But Nana is not likely to be the dupe of so shallow an artifice, and if he engages with Sindia at all, it will be on his own terms.

Captain Kirkpatrick has privately advised me of Azim-ul-Omrah having revoked the treaty with the Paishwa, which he ratified a few days before.

It is useless to conjecture the motives and intentions of so unsteady a politician as Azim-ul-Omrah, but perhaps, the loss of the Nizam's alliance is no great misfortune to the Paishwa. The general history of His Highness's reign and the records of the Company in particular, will show how feeble and inconstant an ally he has ever been.

The Paishwa is much alarmed for the consequences of Nana Furnavees's interview with Sindia, as it is but too probable that their coalition would be productive of another revolution in the state.

Yesterday I received a message from a person named Dada Gujra, an old confidential agent of Nana Furnavees, desiring a conference with Meer Fukeer-u-Dien, the Moonshy of the Residency, to which I consented, and this morning the Moonshy has reported to me the substance of the agent's conversation. He said that he was directed by Nana to present his compliments to me, and to express his regret at being precluded from personal communication with me. He desired me to reflect on his present situation, and to recollect with what attention he had cultivated and improved the friendly connection subsisting between the Company and this state, and the good faith with which he had executed all his public engagements with us. That this conduct had procured him the favour and protection of our Government and the entire confidence of the late Resident, he did not doubt, had made a similar impression on me. In this belief he relied on my giving him such information and advice as might enable him to act with safety and honour in the present arduous conjuncture. He was entirely at the mercy of Sindia, to whose camp he was approaching without knowing for what specific purpose he was to be brought thither, except for that of supplying him with money. That he did not know what engagements might be extorted from him by violence or imposed upon him by artifice, but such was his distrust of Sindia and his abhorrence of the men who now govern his councils, that no temptation could induce him to a voluntary agreement with them. That he was sincerely disposed to reconciliation with Bajy Row, and to support his Government by whatever means these objects might be attained.

I have directed the Moonshy to assure Dada Gujra of my personal respect for Nana Furnavees, and of the satisfaction which I feel at this instance of his confidence in me, to acquaint him that I have no information which can be of use to him, unless it may be to know that Your

Lordship will receive with approbation his sentiments of duty and attachment to the Paishwa, and to acquaint him that considering the ruinous consequences of the present dissensions and of any division of the supreme authority, I had no other advice to give, than an earnest recommendation of reunion between himself, the Paishwa, and Sindia. That this great object might possibly be effected by his supplying Sindia with the money which he requires for the discharge of arrears to his troops, on condition of his immediate withdrawing into Hindostan, and by removing every doubt and apprehension which the Paishwa may entertain from his (Nana's) return to the administration.

I further desired that Nana might be informed that I would cheerfully interpose my good offices with the Paishwa towards a sincere and lasting reconciliation between them.

I hope for Your Lordship's approval of this my offer of friendly mediation, as it appears to me that no measure is so likely as the ministry of Nana and the departure of Dowlut Row to restore this Empire to such a degree of power and respectability, as may again render its alliance of importance to the British interests in India.

I learn from Dada Gujra that Nana has consented to supply Sindia with ten or twelve lacks of rupees for his immediate wants, but the orders for it are deferred until his arrival in camp.

No. 122—Col. Palmer discusses the favourable and unfavourable circumstances in effecting a general reconciliation of all parties in the Maratha State.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 23rd July 1798.

My Lord,

The arrival of Nana Furnavees in Sindia's camp has not yet been productive of any ostensible measure on which a probable conjecture might be formed of their final determination, and on which the fate of this Empire seems to depend.

They have had three long and secret conferences ; all that I can learn of what passed at them is, that Nana objected to the deposal of Bajy Row, and required as a preliminary to supply Sindia with money that he should be set at liberty and placed in security in his own house, observing with much art and some justice, that it could not be expected of the persons who had charge of his treasures to distribute them on orders granted under restraint,

I am not informed of Sindia's answer on these subjects, but I have no reason to doubt that Nana brought them into discussion, as they are precisely conformable to the intimation which Dada Gujra gave me of his intention

If Nana is sincere and firm in urging a general reconciliation, the pressure of the Paishwa's and Sindia's necessities, both pecuniary and political, must I think, compel them to come into it. I have some reason to believe that Nana is really desirous to efface the great stain on his character of having violated the established right of succession to the Paishwaship, and the miseries which his ambition and injustice have brought on the country, together with the failure of his projects, may deter him from recurring to a measure so odious and hazardous as that of setting a pagent of his own at the head of the Empire

Another argument for Nana's sincerity is his utter dread and detestation of Sindia, which he can neither surmount nor conceal.

Favourable as these circumstances appear to a reunion of the parties, there are some obstacles to it, which will not be easily removed. The mutual injuries which have been given, has excited a spirit of reciprocal distrust and animosity, and although the Paishwa and Nana might be secured from the effect of these passions in each other, I do not see what assurance can be taken from Sindia, who has lost all character for good faith, and is powerful enough to repeat his breach of engagements with impunity.

Another obstruction to Nana's return to the administration is the jealousy of Emrut Row, the Paishwa's elder brother by adoption, who is desirous of being Minister himself and although he is neither qualified for that station, nor approved of for it by the Paishwa, his pretensions will have more consideration than they deserve

The Paishwa does not seem to place much reliance on a coalition of interests with Sindia and Nana, nor does his conduct indicate that he is disposed to it. He permits his party to pillage in the city, and to carry off the principal bankers in order to extort money from them. His thus exposing to plunder the inhabitants whom he ought to protect, is considered by Nana as an artifice to deprive him of any money which the Paishwa may suppose him to have lodged in the city banking houses, and he has taken great offence at it. But I rather regard it as preparatory to the Paishwa's abandoning the capital himself.

It is reported that Bajy Row last night sent off to a place of security the widow of the Paishwa Madharow, who alone can sanction the adoption of an alien as the son of her late husband

Pursaram Bhow with 4,000 horse is said to have joined Letchmy Bhaye and her party. Dowlut Row had ordered two battalions to be detached to prevent this junction, but they refused to march until their arrears were discharged

If the confederates have actually received this accession of force, their superiority in cavalry will place the contest upon a footing of more equality, and enable them to protract it, until they can ascertain whether the Nizam will espouse their cause or not. But they seem totally destitute of vigour and unanimity, and I understand, are falling into dissension and mutual reproach.

Dada Gujra has promised to convey to me the sentiments of Nana on my advice to him, communicated to Your Lordship in my last, as soon as he has an opportunity of private discourse with him. But how far that Minister's professions are to be depended upon, or in what degree they may be applied to such an arrangement of the power and authority of this state as would tend to the general interests and security of the Company, are yet points of some doubt and intricacy.

No. 123—Palmer reports a commotion in Sindia's camp, resulting in the arrest and confinement of Sarjerao Ghatge and Fakirji Gadhve.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 26th July 1798.

My Lord,

Yesterday I received intelligence of an incident which took place in Dowlut Row Sindia's quarters, to which I did not give much attention thinking that it would be productive of no serious consequences. But in this opinion I was mistaken, for it has effected the ruin of Sindia, and as it now appears, was concerted to that end.

Fukeerjee Garway going to pay his respects to the Durbar, was stopped at the door by the sentry on duty, a sepoy belonging to Lieutenant Colonel Filose's command, who told him that he would not permit him to enter with his arms. A dispute and struggle ensued in which Fukeerjee Garway wounded the sepoy with his sword. Serjajee Ghautky who was sitting with Sindia went out to appease the tumult, when both he and Fukeerjee were seized by the sepoys of Filose's battalions who were only on guard, and had assembled to support their comrade, and were conveyed prisoners to his camp.

The sequel of this extraordinary event, as far as has yet come to my knowledge, is detailed in the intelligence which I received last night a copy of which, with an English translation, I have the honour to enclose for Your Lordship's information.

I will detain the post until night, in hopes of conveying to Your Lordship the Paishwa's determination on the measures which he may deem it expedient to pursue, for the settlement of his own government and that of Sindia, in consequence of this great change in his situation.

This sudden revolution has been accomplished by the weakest instruments which I should have supposed could have been employed in it, by two young men, Filose and Hessian, neither of whom exceed the age of twenty or twenty-two years, the sons of officers of the same name in Sindia's service and born of native mothers. There can be little doubt of their having been excited to this treachery by the Paishwa, although Filose might have been predisposed to it by his apprehension of Nana Furnavees revenging on him the treachery which he experienced from his father.

Captain Brownrigg mentioned in the Muttasuddy's note is an officer in Drugeon's brigade, which he has lately joined with recruits from Hindostan, and is supposed to have brought instructions from Colonel Perron, the commanding officer of Sindia's regular brigades, to effect the removal of Mr. Drugeon, with whose conduct Perron has been long dissatisfied.

I learn that Nana Furnavees, two days ago submitted to the Paishwa and Sindia some propositions for a general conciliation, which all parties had approved with some trifling exceptions, which there would be little difficulty in removing.

In this scheme Nana had disinterestedly stipulated no power or emolument for himself, requiring only security for his liberty and for retiring when he should think proper to Benares.

Having received no further intelligence in the course of the day, I am inclined to recur to my original opinion of the commotion of yesterday being unpremeditated, or at least not excited by the Paishwa, or his party, as it can scarcely be supposed that if it had, he would have been unprepared with determinate measures on Sindia being put under restraint.

But whatever may have given rise to this transaction, enough has been done to convince Sindia of his desperate situation, and to induce his immediate acquiescence in the conciliatory propositions of Nana Furnavees, if his acquiescence will now be admitted.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

(Signed) WM PALMER.

No. 123-A.

Translation of a note from Gunput Row, Muttasuddy of the Resident with Dowlut Row Sindia to Colonel Palmer, received the 25th July 1798, at 8 o'clock p m

After the usual address.

MO-1 Ek Ca 23-13a

You are informed of the situation of Serjajee Ghautky and Fukeerjee Garway until 9 o'clock, this morning. In the mean time, Dowlut Row Sindia remained in the Zananna. Colonel Filose conducted Serjajee and Fukeerjee prisoners, and confined them in charge of the Poranghur Battalion. Both were wounded by bayonets. Until noon Filose's camp was under arms. After 5 or 6 Ghurries, the Maharaja went into the Goshe Mahl, or glass apartment, Ramjee Patel, Krishna Chitnavees, and a guard, with a few domestics attended. The battalions of Filose surrounded the Rajah's quarters, and suffered no person to enter or come out of them. The people of the camp plundered and carried off the camels and other cattle belonging to Serjajee and Fukeerjee and their dependants fled. The other Pahr of the day remaining, Raijee Patel, Bhow Bukshy, Moonshy Kavilnayan, Kishna Chitnavees, Baboo Chitnavees, and five or six domestics attended the Maharaja, and the rest of the Sirdars, Vakeels, etc. agreeable to summons, assembled in the lower apartments. By the advice of Raijee Patel and others, the Maharaja wrote reluctantly to the Paishwa, "your wishes are accomplished. It is now for you to remove obstructions and settle affairs". The elephants, camels, etc. belonging to Serjajee and Fukeerjee which had been dispersed, were collected and brought to Dowlut Row's quarters. Jadoo Row Bhow, and Unnah his brother, who were in confinement near the Deoghur were sent by Sindia to Filose's battalions on guard. A Hircarra of the Maharaja and a chobdar of Bhow Bukshy summoned me to the presence of the former. I repaired to the Durbar accordingly. I found Sindia sitting in a swing exceedingly depressed and unable to speak to any person. Bhow Bukshy and Raijee Patel told me, "Do you on the part of Maharaja make known to the Colonel that this day, matters are effected conformably to the counsels of the Paishwa and Sirdars. At present I have it in contemplation to adjust all affairs, among which the opposing of Zemaun Shah will also be resolved on". After attending for the space of a ghurry I returned to my own tent and in the evening received this information, that George (Hessing) according to order attended the Maharaja. And at this time it is intimated to me by Bhow Bukshy and Raijee Patel, that the seizure of Mr. Dugeon is under deliberation. This is the state of things to the evening.

Nana Furnavees is yet in the camp of Mr. Dugeon, and that officer's brigade is in concert with the two Colonels and Captain Brownrigg. The orders which were given for removing Nana Furnavees near to Sindia's quarters is suspended. Tents are sent to accommodate Serjajee and Fukeerjee and orders given for their wounds to be dressed.

No. 124—The Governor General since his arrival in India having determined the policy of his Government sends vigorous instructions to the Resident, revealing the important steps he was going to take. Here begins a new policy.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,
TO—THE RESIDENT, POONA.

Fort William, 8th July 1798

Sir,

I think it necessary to apprize you that you will receive in the course of a few days my instructions to the following effect

You will be ordered to demand the concurrence of the Paishwa in a joint remonstrance to Tippoo in consequence of the recent conduct of the latter, and to require the co-operation of the Mahratta force in the event of a war between Tippoo and the Company

You will be empowered to offer to the Paishwa the immediate aid of one Regiment of European Infantry, two Regiments of Native Infantry, and one Company of artillery, for the purpose of protecting his person and supporting his authority This force you are to require from Bombay, which Government is ordered to furnish at your requisition

Before you engage to assist the Paishwa with the force in question, he must consent to the increase of the British detachment serving with the Nizam, and to my arbitration of the differences between the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad The employment of the increased detachment at Hyderabad is to be restricted by the same limitations as the present detachment in His Highness's service ; and no alteration is to be made in this respect without the consent of the Paishwa

You are to propose to the Paishwa a new treaty of alliance to which the Nizam is to be a party, and you are to offer to the Paishwa similar *subsidiary engagements to those now subsisting between us and the Nizam*

You are to enter into no engagements of any kind with the Paishwas, until he shall have agreed to the conditions stated in paragraph 4 of this letter, and also shall have acknowledged the binding force of the existing treaty of Poona upon him and upon his successors You are to dispatch full information of all your proceedings to the Resident at Hyderabad.

You are to represent to Sindia that his present position precludes us from the benefits of our treaties of defensive alliance, and you are to state

The reader is advised to read in this connection the Governor General's illuminating document of the same date printed under No. 28 of Wellesley's Despatches, Vol. 1, p. 113.

to him in the most amicable and conciliatory terms my wish that he would return into his own dominions.

You are to inform Sindia that I have recently received communications from Zemaun Shah, announcing his intended invasion of Hindostan, and demanding the aid of the Nabob Vizier and of this Government, for the purpose of restoring Shah Allum and of expelling him (Sindia).

You are to assure Sindia, that whenever he shall return to his own dominions, he will find the British Resident authorized by me to conclude a defensive alliance with Sindia against Zemaun Shah. You are also to inform Sindia that as soon as he shall have arrived in his own dominions, I shall be willing to interpose my mediation between him, the Nizam, and the Paishwa.

If Sindia should attack our troops or should call in the aid of Tipoo, or should refuse to return into Hindostan or should commence hostilities against the Paishwa, you will be authorized to employ the British troops against Sindia.

I have determined to send a Resident to the Rajah of Berar at his earnest solicitation ; the knowledge of this fact you will use according to your discretion.

As the tenor of your late advices leads me to apprehend that Sindia, if not checked, may by a sudden blow attempt to destroy the authority of the Paishwa, and as it will require some time to put my detailed instructions into cypher, I forward this abstract of their substance, relying upon your discretion to act under the authority of this communication if the urgency of the case should appear to demand your interposition, before you can receive my orders in a more connected form : but you will not act at all under this letter unless the imminent danger of the Paishwa should render your interference absolutely necessary.

I am, Sir, etc.,

(Signed) MORNINGTON.

P. S.—I enclose a copy of my instructions to the Resident at Hyderabad. You will be particularly cautious not to disclose that part of my instructions to the Hyderabad Resident which relates to the dismissal of the French army at that Court, as, if any idea of such a design were to transpire at Poona, it might reach Hyderabad before the measure could be executed there, and afford to the French Officers an opportunity of frustrating the whole arrangement.

No. 125—Col Palmer reports the situation of Sindia and the Peshwa to the Governor General and explains why he was unable to carry out the instructions conveyed to him in the Governor General's letter of 8th July

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 29th July 1798

My Lord,

I am honoured with Your Lordship's commands of the 8th instant. The relative situation of the Paishwa and Dowlut Row Sindia in my address to Your Lordship of the 26th, having undergone no alterations, I conceive it not only unnecessary but improper to act under your preparatory instructions, until I can obtain a competent knowledge of the views which the several parties have formed in consequence of the present depression of Sindia's power and authority.

For this purpose I have, on the grounds of the general practice of free intercourse and unreserved communication subsisting between the two governments, and of my desire to promote the Paishwa's interests, requested of him to send to me a confidential agent to inform me of his intentions in the approaching settlement of his government, and whether I can assist him

I shall impart to the agent the requisitions in Your Lordship's letter for the Paishwa's acknowledgment of the existing validity of the treaty of Poona, for the supply of his quota of troops, and for his concurrence in the joint remonstrance of the allied powers to Tippoo.

The great advantages which the Paishwa has derived from the sedition in Sindia's army, will probably induce him to decline the offer of a subsidiary force, but I have little doubt of his renewing the offensive alliance against Tippoo, which must necessarily produce his acquiescence in Your Lordship's proposals to arbitrate the differences between him and the Nizam.

Appearances between the Paishwa and Nana are perfectly conciliatory. That Minister has been liberated from Sindia's guard and camp, and is in his tents at some distance from the latter, protected by troops of his own and those of the Paishwa. He is this day or tomorrow to pay his respects at the Durbar. But I understand that he is under some apprehensions from the jealousy of Emrut Rhaw. Either this circumstance or the report of his having renounced the Ministry in favour of the Row cannot be true.

I have, however, very little apprehension that the material objects of Your Lordship's plan will be disappointed, whichever of those two persons obtains the direction of the Paishwa's affairs. Emrut Row is attached to us by sentiment, Nana by policy.

As neither the Paishwa's person nor authority are now in the smallest danger from Sindia, your Lordship will, I trust, concur in the propriety of deferring any negotiation with the former until his administration is settled.

I will immediately communicate to Sindia your Lordship's representations of the necessity of his immediately repairing to Hindostan, to which, I believe, he is now well inclined, if Nana will supply him with money to satisfy his troops, and no doubt he will be further encouraged in this inclination by Your Lordship's intimation of supporting him against the invasion of Zemaun Shah.

I am just now informed from unquestionable authority, that the seizure of Sindia's ministers, and the restraint on his person, were excited by his uncle Baboo Row Angria, and his relations Rajee Patel and Ramjee Patel.

The professed objects of this party, are to remove the captive ministers from Sindia's presence entirely, to effect a reconciliation in his family, to obtain money from Nana Furnavees for the payment of the troops, and leaving that Minister with the Paishwa, to proceed immediately into Hindostan.

They are averse to an interview between the Paishwa and Nana until they have effected these purposes.

It appears to me that these views are perfectly consistent with the Paishwa's authority and interests, and calculated to restore the energy and security of the government. And I have informed Baboo Row Angria, from whom they were communicated to me, that I shall be happy to assist in promoting them, if my mediation should be acceptable to all parties.

If the Paishwa expects further concessions from the present situation of Sindia, as I fear he does, he will be mistaken; for the prevailing party have the entire direction of the army, and can secure their own objects.

It is not necessary formally to notify to the Paishwa Your Lordship's intention to depute a minister to the Rajah of Berar. But I shall take occasion to mention it immediately.

No. 126—The Resident communicates to the Governor General the actual state of affairs at Poona, the release of Nana from Sindia's confinement, and the confusion in which matters were involved.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 4th August 1798.

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 29th ultimo, the Paishwa at my request sent one of his Moonshies to attend me for the purpose of explaining his present situation and views.

This emissary is a brother of the Paishwa's confidential Moonshy. I do not know how far he is trusted, but he appears to be a man of very slender intelligence, and by no means qualified for important employment.

His communications were few and in substance only that the Paishwa was sincerely labouring to re-establish harmony and confidence between himself, Sindia and Nana Furnavees, and with great appearance of success

I could discover, however, from the answers which the Moonshy could not avoid giving to my enquiries of the means by which the expected accommodation was to be effected and of the dispositions of the parties towards each other, that mutual distrust still prevails to a great a degree and that some security, beyond their own reciprocal assurances or most solemn engagements, will be indispensable to their final agreement. And as I cannot comprehend how they can mutually satisfy each other in this point, I shall not be surprized if they make a joint application for my mediating their differences under the Company's guarantee

I conceive that such mediation and guarantee afforded on condition of all the parties engaging in the plans which Your Lordship has in contemplation relative to this state and to the Nizam, would considerably facilitate the attainment of objects of the proposed alliance, by the right which you would require of retaining the parties in their respective stations, and thus confirming their operations to your ultimate views in the confederacy.

If a requisition to the above effect should be made to me before I can be honoured with Your Lordship's sentiments upon it, I shall so far encourage it as to consent to the mediatory part, under the reservation of Your Lordship's approval of the guarantee, and on the previous condition of their executing the new treaty.

I communicated to the Moonshy for the Paishwa's information, Your Lordship's intention to require from Tippoo an explanation of his secret negotiations with the French, to desire the concurrence of the allies therein, and eventually to make a requisition for their stipulated quotas of troops to act offensively against that prince I have not yet received an answer.

Nana Furnavees having been enlarged, and no restraint laid upon his intercourse, I consented to his request that my Moonshy might wait upon him after I had previously advised the Paishwa of my intention

Nana's purpose in desiring this meeting was to give me assurances of the continuance of those sentiments of respect and attachment, which he had ever manifested for the British nation and its government in India, and of his strong desire to renew those relations in which he had formerly stood towards it. He expressed his reliance on my disposition to act cordially and confidentially with him in the relative concerns of the two states, if he

should return to the administration of this government, but said that he had no inclination to enter into that arduous situation unless the contending views and interests by which the state was nearly ruined, could be completely conciliated. He professed the sincerest intention to support the authority of Bajy Row, but doubted whether he could safely confide in the assurances of that prince. He would, however, strenuously endeavour to effect a sincere reconciliation with him whether he should return to the ministry or not. He said he had concluded no engagements with Sindia, and until he arrived in his camp, did not know for what purpose he was brought thither. That both the Paishwa and Sindia had involved their affairs in so much confusion and distress, as made it difficult for him to know how to act, but his object was to reconcile them and rescue both from impending ruin.

I made my acknowledgments to Nana for his communications and confidence, and have expressed my reliance on his attention to the maintenance and improvement of the friendship and alliance between the two states, and my satisfaction at the measures which he proposes to attempt for the prosperity of his own.

A meeting was yesterday appointed between the Paishwa and Nana, and the latter was actually on the point of setting out, but perceiving Sindia's troops to be assembling about him and apprehensive of their being instructed to prevent him, he deferred his intention and I believe, will not be permitted to wait upon the Paishwa, until he has come to some agreement with Sindia.

On my notifying to Sindia that I had a message from Your Lordship to deliver to him, he desired to receive it from an agent of mine, instead of sending one of his own to me, or my waiting upon him in person as proposed, and by his appointment my principal Moonshy attended him this morning. He expressed a proper sense of Your Lordship's regard for his interests in the advice contained in your message and for your intimation of affording him support in Hindostan against the invasion of Zemaun Shah, and that he was pursuing measures for his march to the northward, but insinuated the necessity of accomplishing all his objects here, and gave no intimation of the time when he should be able to commence his journey. He seemed to rely much upon Zemaun Shah's inability to execute his intentions, and said, that he would instruct his commanders in Hindostan to concert with Your Lordship the means of repelling that Prince's attempts, if he should advance before he himself can leave Poona.

From these declarations and the obstacles to adjusting the various and complicated views and interests of the contending parties in this government, I conclude that there is little probability of his moving hence for some months, and I am apprehensive that the Paishwa will not be able to recover his authority without foreign assistance.

No. 127—The Governor General asks Palmer to win over Nana Fadnis if he was well-disposed towards the British. He advises the Resident to order British Regiments from Bombay to help the Peshwa against Sindia at Poona.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,
TO—COL. PALMER.

Fort William, 8th July 1798.

Sir,

I am very much flattered by the obliging expressions contained in your private letter of 12th June. You may be assured that it is a matter of real satisfaction to me that the affairs of this Government at the Court of Poona should be in the hands of a person of your talents and experience in a moment the most critical to our interests. You will learn by my public instructions the nature and extent of the general system of policy with respect to our alliances which, in my judgment, the present crisis absolutely demands. I have the fullest confidence in your zeal for promoting the success of a plan which is founded in principles of justice and moderation and intended to conciliate the real interests of all parties to be affected by its execution. There are only a few points which have been omitted in my public instructions as being more properly the subjects of a private communication. If any opportunity should offer of restoring Nana on conditions favourable to our interests, and consistent with the general tenor of my instructions, I think that such an event might tend to secure the permanent advantages of the proposed plan. But I feel that it would be difficult to reconcile the Paishwa to this measure, and that Azim-ul-Omrah would probably view it with jealousy. Notwithstanding these objections, I am persuaded that the experience and wisdom of the person in question, would give great vigor to the new arrangements, could he be induced to consider them as connected with our own interests. If you should concur with me in this opinion, you will meet with my support and approbation in any steps which you may take for the restoration of Nana. You will observe in the detailed instructions, that I have deducted one native Regiment from the force which I supposed you might immediately obtain from Bombay. This is a matter of necessity arising from a fuller investigation of the subject. Should you apprehend that the force which I now offer, may not prove equal to the proposed object, you will of course make no application to Bombay, and you will signify your determination in this respect by express to me, to Bombay, and to Hyderabad.

I have just now received your letter of the 23rd of June, and entirely approve all the steps you have taken and propose to take. Nothing in that letter appears to me to require any further observations from me.

With the most implicit reliance on your faithful and diligent discharge of the duty which the present circumstances impose upon you, I have the honor to be,

Sir, etc.,

(Signed) MORNINGTON.

P.S.—In the abstract of this dispatch, I cautioned you against making any communication to the Paishwa of my intentions with respect to the French army at Hyderabad. It was necessary to observe caution until measures could be taken at Hyderabad for dispersing the French army into small parties. As it is probable that such a dispersion will have taken place before you can receive this dispatch, I have given you full liberty to apprise the Paishwa of the nature of the arrangements to be adopted at Hyderabad, feeling that it would be very improper to use any concealment at Poona or at Hyderabad with respect to the real object of the negotiations at either Court.

The deficient enclosures will be forwarded by the next Dawk.

(Signed) MORNINGTON.

No. 128—The Governor of Bombay is asked by the Governor General to furnish a force to the Peshwa at the requisition of the Resident.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

Fort William, 13th July 1798.

Hon'ble Sir,

We think it proper to inform you that we have authorised Colonel Palmer to enter into certain engagements with the Paishwa, and that in the event of those engagements being concluded, we have authorised him to apply to you for a military force to be marched directly to Poona.

Colonel Palmer has our sanction to apply to you immediately for any force, not exceeding one Regiment of European and one of Native Infantry, completed to two thousand men, with one Company of artillery. Should any further force be required at Poona, Colonel Palmer will make application to you for it, and we trust that you will be enabled to furnish one additional Regiment of Native Infantry by drawing it from Malabar after the monsoon.

We authorise you, immediately on the receipt of Colonel Palmer's application to complete your native corps to the war establishment and also to raise an additional native Regiment

Should Colonel Palmer apply for an European Regiment it is not our intention that it should be detached to Poona longer than it may be absolutely requisite, and we shall instruct Colonel Palmer to order it to be returned to Bombay as soon as its services can be dispensed with

We are fully aware of the objections even to a temporary diminution of the force on your establishment, when we acquaint you that the permanent security of the British possessions in India is essentially concerned in the measures which we are now concerting with the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad, and that the success of those measures will become impracticable unless the force which may be required by Col. Palmer shall reach Poona with all possible expedition We are confident that you will not suffer so important an arrangement to be frustrated by any difficulty which is not absolutely insuperable.

Whatever consequences may attend the measure, we shall consider ourselves exclusively responsible for them. We cannot, however, apprehend any danger from your weakening your garrison for a short period of time, as it is the Admiral's determination to make the protection of Malabar and Bombay the principal object of our attention as soon as the season shall open, and as the army which we have ordered to be assembled in the Carnatic on Tippoo's frontier, would check the movement of his army towards the coast of Malabar.

We shall take an early opportunity of communicating to you the circumstances which have led to our determination to march a force to Poona.

No. 129—Palmer discusses the advantages of reinstating Nana in the Peshwa's Ministry and proposes to undertake a guarantee for him against violence from Sindia. The paper mentions an approach by Nana for British guarantee for his safety from both the Peshwa and Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th August 1798.

My Lord,

On the 4th I advised Mr Secretary Barlow of my receipt of Your Lordship's dispatch under date the 8th ultimo While I am waiting for an answer from the Paishwa to a requisition I made three days ago for a conference with him and the great objects of your instructions are necessarily in suspense, I wish to inform Your Lordship of the steps I have taken and intend to pursue, towards effecting the restoration of Nana Furnavees to the Ministry.

Your Lordship will have perceived by the encouragement which I gave to Nana's advances for a confidential intercourse with me, that I was aware how important it would be to the success of any measures which Your Lordship might adopt for enabling the Paishwa to fulfil his defensive engagements to the Company, that this Minister should be replaced in the direction of affairs, and I am happy to find that my opinion concurs with that of Your Lordship. I am, indeed persuaded that no subsidiary stipulations can be duly and regularly executed, but under his management.

I have the satisfaction to learn that one of the obstacles which Your Lordship apprehended to Nana's return to power, does not exist—the jealousy of Azim-ul-Omrah. Two days ago, Nana requested that I would permit my Moonshy to wait upon Sheshaudry Pundit, the Nizam's principal Vakeel at this Court, who had a confidential communication to make to me. The substance of this communication was, that my interposition with the Paishwa for restoring Nana to the Ministry would be highly acceptable to Azim-ul-Omrah.

Yesterday, by Nana's desire, my Moonshy waited upon him again, whom he informed, that his earnest wish was to retire from public business, but if the Paishwa thought his talents and experience would conduce to the re-establishment of order and tranquillity in the state and would entrust him with that degree of power which was indispensable for effecting these objects, and if it would be approved of, and his authority countenanced by the British Government, he would resume his station. That in this event his influence and abilities should be constantly exerted to maintain and improve the alliance between the Company and the Mahratta state, to which he had been so materially instrumental in contracting. But he had no prospect of extricating himself from the power of Sindia, and of obtaining a free intercourse with the Paishwa without my assistance. He had engaged to furnish Sindia with ten lacks of rupees for his immediate exigencies, but was determined not to part with the money until his personal liberty was secured, and Sindia should engage to give him no further molestation unless he should fail in his engagements. On the other hand Sindia would not permit him to withdraw from his camp until the money was paid, and he had no reliance on Sindia's promise to release him even then. In this state of mutual distrust, he could devise no expedient for assuring both parties, and of obtaining for himself that degree of freedom which would enable him to exert himself in composing the distractions of the state, but that of my engaging to Sindia that the ten lacks of rupees should be discharged at a short period of time to be fixed, and taking from Sindia in return an engagement to leave Nana at entire liberty in his person.

To this proposition of Nana, I have answered that I have no hesitation in making myself personally responsible for his pecuniary engagement to the extent specified, knowing his good faith and punctuality in transactions of this nature; and that I consented to become so, if Sindia would

accept of my security. But in exacting from Sindia the counter security which Nana requires, I had no authority to commit the Government which I represent and of course no means of compelling Sindia to a performance of his engagement.

Nana has replied to this observation that he is sensible I cannot make this act a public obligation on the part of Sindia, but he is willing to trust to the personal esteem which that chief entertains for me, and his respect for my public situation for his not violating his promise, and if Sindia deceives him, it will be a misfortune to which he must submit, but can involve me in no consequences whatever

As Nana has thus exonerated me from all responsibility for the conduct of Sindia, and his liberation with all the good effects to be expected from it, seems unattainable by any other means, I have consented to engage for him and Sindia mutually, to the extent abovementioned, provided the Paishwa approves of it, Nana having previously given the assurances of some of the most respectable bankers in Poona for the punctual discharge of the ten lacs of rupees to Sindia

I am in hopes that this transaction will have a double operation in leading to the application of Sindia for my mediation between him and Nana, and the means for his repairing to Hindostan, his march being impracticable unless Nana supplies him with money to clear the arrears due to his troops

In further prosecution of promoting Nana Furnavees's return to the administration, I purpose at my first interview with the Paishwa to engage him in such discussions on the state of his affairs, as will materially introduce the mention of that Minister, and afford me an opportunity of pointing out the necessity of recurring to his wisdom, experience, influence, and wealth for the present salvation and future prosperity of the Mahratta Empire

I am informed that the Paishwa is seriously inclined to commit the direction of his Government to Nana, although he is jealous of a diminution of his consequence from the great weight and respectability of the Minister's character, and greatly embarrassed by the opposition of Emrut Row. The first objection may yield to the necessity of the Paishwa's affairs. The other may possibly be overcome by compromising the pretensions of Emrut Row with some station of dignity and emolument, in which he could not obstruct the authority or influence of the Minister. But I fear that they can never be brought to act together with any confidence or cordiality. Emrut Row has so sincere and disinterested an attachment to the British nation and its Government in India, that I am certain he will receive with complacency and attention any suggestions from me for reconciling the differences between him and Nana, though they may not be such as will remove his distrust or satisfy his ambition. I will make the attempt when my information from the Paishwa may better instruct me how to undertake it

I have thus stated to Your Lordship all the material circumstances on which the reinstatement of Nana Furnavees seems to depend, and the methods by which, I hope, to be instrumental in advancing an object so essential to the complete accomplishment of your important views, for although it is not very improbable that the Paishwa may be brought under all the engagements which Your Lordship proposes, the faithful and strenuous execution of them would, in my opinion, be very doubtful under the direction of any other Minister than Nana.

Judging that Your Lordship's letter to Sindia would draw from him a discovery of his real intentions respecting his repairing to Hindostan, and of his ultimate views in this quarter, I sent to him immediately through Gunput Row, Colonel Collins's agent at his Durbar, a message that I should be glad to wait upon him when he had attentively considered Your Lordship's advice and proposals, and formed his opinion and determination thereon. In answer to my message, he desired four days consideration of the subjects, after which he would request the pleasure of seeing me and appoint a time for my visit.

Since I began my letter, I have received an answer from the Paishwa to my demand of an audience appointing the day after tomorrow. Such is the habitual indifference and procrastination of a Mahratta Durbar on its most important concerns.

I shall reserve, until my interview with the Paishwa, any * * * observations or opinion of the result on the other subjects contained in Your Lordship's dispatches of the dates of the 8th and 14th ultimo. It seems to me that the Paishwa's suggestion of a new treaty was merely with the design of alarming Sindia by the apprehension of stipulations to his prejudice. He had no article to propose, and was far from wishing that the treaty of Poona should be considered as annulled by the death of the late Paishwa. But now circumstances might serve as a pretext for concluding a new one to answer the purpose abovementioned.

No. 130—The Resident reports his interview with the Peshwa when the latter declined to accept British help to sustain his power. The Resident did not press the appointment of Nana Fadnis as Minister upon the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th August 1798.

My Lord,

Yesterday evening I obtained an audience of the Paishwa, and in a private conference which was attended by Chimna Appa, Govind Kishen Kaule, the ostensible Minister Balla Koonjir, Naroo Punt Chuckerdoo, Moonshy Gopal Row and Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien, my Moonshy, read and

explained the propositions and details contained in Your Lordship's instructions to me of the 8th ultimo, and subsequently, with some exceptions which I shall hereafter state

As I considered the Paishwa's previous acknowledgment of the existing validity of the treaty of Poona, and his promise to fulfil his defensive engagements in it as indispensable to all negotiation on the points of Your Lordship's instructions, I commenced with those requisitions, to both of which he most unequivocally and unreservedly assented

After a short verbal introduction of the subject, I next read to the Paishwa the proclamation of the Governor of Mauritius, and then mentioned the arrival of French officers and soldiers in consequence of it at Syringputtum, and the distinguished reception which the first had met with from that Prince, with other infractions of the treaty of peace subsisting between him and the allies

After the Paishwa had taken a little time to confer with his Ministers on the nature and tendency of Tippoo's proceedings, I informed him that Your Lordship, desirous of averting the calamity of war if it could be avoided with honour and security, wished to concert with your allies the means of obtaining from Tippoo a just reparation for the offence given and the injury meditated, rather than proceed to immediate hostilities, as would be strictly justifiable from the provocation received And that for this purpose you had directed me to request the Paishwa's concurrence in a joint letter from the allies to Tippoo remonstrating against his conduct and demanding adequate satisfaction, Your Lordship having made provision for enforcing such satisfaction if it should be refused You expected that your allies would also be in a state of preparation for that purpose

To these requisitions the Paishwa assented without hesitation, desired a copy of the French proclamation, and said that he would send me a draft of the conditions on which, in his opinion, Tippoo should be restored to the situation in which he stood relatively to the allies before these aggressions. He also assured me that he would be ready to co-operate with Your Lordship whenever hostilities should be judged unavoidable.

On receiving these assurances, I came forward with Your Lordship's proposition for supplying the Paishwa with military aid for the protection of his person and authority, and for entering into engagements with him for a permanent subsidiary force on certain conditions, explaining to him in detail, Your Lordship's motives for these offers, both as they regarded the Paishwa's particular interests and security and those of the common cause

Without waiting for his answer, I proceeded to inform him that Your Lordship had tendered on similar motives an increase of the Company's force stationed with the Nizam, that you had directed an unreserved communication of your views at this Court and at that of His Highness,

to be made to each as the best incentive to a coalition in which Your Lordship's objects are security, real and lasting interests of both, and the security of all the members of the triple alliance against the designs of the most unprincipled and implacable enemy.

In making this communication, I stated the conditions which Your Lordship had annexed to the granting an increase of the Company's force to the Nizam, as they regard the Paishwa, but omitting only that of the dismissal of the French officers and corps, as the period for carrying that measure into effect is so remote as to render the disclosure of it unnecessary and hazardous. I added that His Highness had adopted Your Lordship's plan entirely.

The Paishwa having attentively considered these subjects, expressed his great acknowledgments to Your Lordship for the important obligation which you proposed to confer upon him by the assistance of a British force for the protection of his person and the regulation of his government; but that he had now strong hopes of retrieving his affairs and recovering his authority without availing himself of Your Lordship's friendly offers with which he would for the present dispense, but should his expectations be disappointed, he would have recourse to your assistance.

He made no observation on the subsidiary engagements to be entered into with the Nizam, from which I infer his consent to, or at least acquiescence in, that measure.

With respect to Your Lordship's proposal of arbitrating the differences between him and the Nizam, he answered that he should have accepted it with confidence and gratitude if he had not already proceeded so far in an amicable negotiation with His Highness, as afforded a prospect of a speedy and final termination of every point in dispute.

I am at a loss to conjecture on what circumstances the Paishwa founds his hopes of regaining his authority, and restoring order and energy in the state. No consequences, favourable to his interests, have yet appeared from the restraint in which Sindia is held by his own servants and troops, except a suspension of further encroachments on the rights and possessions of the Paishwa, nor do I perceive the smallest symptom of returning tranquillity in this government.

The only clue which I have to lead me to an opinion on the motives of the Paishwa for so unexpected a refusal of an aid, which he has hitherto been so anxious to obtain, and which I know to be indispensable to his interests and security, is in the information which I received a few hours before I went to his Durbar, of a consultation which he held with Emrut Rao, Govind Kishen Kauli, and other persons, who have formed a cabal for the exclusion of Nana Furnavees from the ministry, at which were discussed the answers to be given to such propositions as were supposed to be the subjects of the conference which I had demanded of the Paishwa.

At this consultation, my intelligence says that it was resolved to decline such intimate connexion with the British government as might have a tendency to restore Nana to the direction of affairs, and immediately to conclude an agreement with Sindia on any terms, and to unite with him in an attack upon the Nizam

The first part of this intelligence seems to be corroborated by the result of my conference with the Paishwa. But I can scarcely credit their adopting such desperate measures as are contained in the latter resolution. Or if they have, that they will venture to carry them into execution with the knowledge of Your Lordship's intended effectual support of the Nizam.

The determination to oppose Nana Furnavees and the presence of his opponents at my interview with the Paishwa, deterred me from any mention of the name of that Minister. But I am convinced that Bajy Row will soon feel the consequences of neglecting the support offered to him by Your Lordship and of the want of the wealth, influence and abilities of Nana Furnavees, and probably be compelled to recur to both.

Emrut Row with an undoubted attachment to and predilection for our nation and government, will sacrifice these sentiments and expose the safety of his brother and the state to the silly ambition of occupying a station for which he is totally unqualified.

Considering the reduced state of the Paishwa's revenue, his want of any other reliefs than in the treasures of Nana Furnavees, the weakness and inconstancy of his character, and the incapacity of his present ministry, Your Lordship will not perhaps, regret that your offer of military aid has been declined. And I confess that I should have had but little reliance on the faithful execution of the engagements required from the Paishwa in return for it, either political or subsidiary, unless they had been under the direction of Nana Furnavees.

On these considerations and on the information of what had been transacted previous to my going to the Durbar, I refrained from pressing the Paishwa on any of the new propositions from Your Lordship, further than by remarking the imminent danger to which all the allies would be exposed by the inability of any one of them to join in resisting the designs of Tippoo and the French. If Your Lordship should be of opinion that under the present circumstances of the Paishwa's administration and finances, his alliance by the aid of a British force, may be serviceable to the common cause, I have little doubt but his difficulties, distresses, and dangers will soon compel him to recur to your offers

In the meantime, I shall watch with the most unremitting attention, the proceedings of the Paishwa's and Sindia's Durbars, and convey to Your Lordship and to the Resident at Hyderabad the earliest advices which I may obtain of any designs formed against His Highness or that may affect the views and interests of your Government

I read to the Paishwa a copy of Your Lordship's letter to Sindia, in which he appeared to take considerable interest, and said, that he would confer with him on the means of complying with Your Lordship's pressing instances for his repairing to Hindoostan. This declaration is incompatible with the resolution mentioned in the 14th paragraph of this letter. But I do not know which to credit.

Sindia has not yet fixed a time for my interview with him. He has withdrawn his troops from their station near Nana Furnavees's tent in consequence of that minister having paid him five lacks of rupees, and of my engaging that the remaining five lacks of his agreement shall be discharged in eight days. I believe that he has engaged to supply Sindia with a further sum, as he can draw it from his hoards. He is now free from all personal restraint, but will not take up his residence in the city until he is assured of his safety from the Paishwa.

I did not acquaint the Paishwa with the condition which Your Lordship required, of his excluding all persons of the French nation from his service and dominions, as the proposal on which it was founded was not accepted. And it is the less necessary, since no persons of that nation are in his service and Emrut Row will admit of no Europeans in his troops but British.

The Dawk which contained the original letter of which a copy is now enclosed, was insolently and wantonly plundered, and the mail carried off by horsemen belonging to Narrain Row Bukshy or Muzuffer Khan, from whom I have demanded satisfaction, but as yet have obtained no answer.

No. 131—The Resident informs the Governor General of the likelihood of Nana Fadnis being restored to the Ministry by the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 15th August 1798.

My Lord,

I have heard nothing further from the Paishwa on the subject of my late interview with him, of which I had the honour to advise Your Lordship on the 11th instant; nor have any measures appeared of a tendency to conciliation between the contending parties in the state.

I have repeatedly applied for an answer from the Paishwa to Your Lordship's letters, and for his draft of a joint letter to Tippoo; of these I receive daily promises, and as constant disappointments. The systematic procrastination of this court is increased by the want of an efficient administration and of any regular channel of intercourse.

The Paishwa's declining to accept of that succour which he had so urgently solicited, without any apparent change in his situation to encourage his dispensing with it, may, perhaps, be ascribed as much to the spirit of jealousy and distrust which this government has always manifested of foreign interference, as to the motive assigned for the resolution taken at the consultation mentioned in the 14th paragraph of my last address. The Paishwa at least is no longer actuated by that motive if I may believe intelligence which I have received this day, of his having renewed his offer of reconciliation with Nana Furnavees and even promised to assist him with money towards satisfying Sindia in order to remove that chief from Poona.

To this information is added, that Emrut Row, despairing of his influence to effect the exclusion of Nana, has expressed a wish that I would mediate to compose the differences subsisting between them

Whatever truth there may be in any part of this intelligence, it is certain that the Paishwa has within these few days, had several conferences with Govind Row Pingleh and other firm adherents of Nana, and that confidential messages have passed between them, and the ex-Minister has assured me, that the Paishwa has proposed to him to request my security for such engagements as they may mutually enter into

It is certain that no measure is so likely to rescue this state from impending ruin as the return of Nana Furnavees to the administration. And the Paishwa probably feels the necessity of it, but his mind is so wavering and irresolute, that little reliance can be placed on his determinations, and of all the persons who influence them, there is not perhaps one who is actuated by any other consideration than that of his individual interest

Notwithstanding these unfavourable circumstances, I am inclined to believe that the total inability of conducting the government without Nana's assistance, will compel all parties to acquiesce in his return to power, and in this event, I should confidently expect to see Your Lordship's views adopted and strenuously supported by this state. Otherwise I can scarcely entertain a hope that it will be in a condition to afford the smallest assistance to the common cause

I have observed in the intelligence from Syringputtum transmitted to me occasionally by the government of Madras, that hircarras from Poona are mentioned to be attending Tippoo for answer to letters, but I cannot discover that any correspondence or intercourse of importance has subsisted for a considerable time past, or does at present subsist between the Paishwa, or Dowlut Row Sindia, and the Sultaun. And the Paishwa's ready concurrence in Your Lordship's proposed demand of satisfaction for the aggressions of Tippoo, is a strong presumption against such an intercourse.

Sindia has not yet fixed a time for my interview, but I am informed that he talks seriously of proceeding to Hindostan, whenever he can discharge the arrears due to his troops.

No. 132—As Palmer was suffering from an inflammation in his eyes, his assistant writes to say that Nana was expected to be reinstated in the Peshwa's Ministry.

FROM—COL. PALMER'S ASSISTANT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th August 1798.

My Lord,

Colonel Palmer being rendered incapable of writing by an inflammation in his eyes, desires me to inform Your Lordship that since his letters of 11th and 15th instant, duplicates of which I do myself the honour to enclose, nothing material has occurred in this quarter, except Emrut Row's having sent to him his Dewan to request of him to mediate the differences between Nana Furnavees and himself.

As the Colonel is in hopes that the contending parties see the necessity of coalescing and of bringing Nana into the Ministry, he has great expectations that upon this desirable event taking place, the Paishwa will be enabled to fulfil his engagements to Your Lordship and to assist with effect in the war against Tippoo, should hostilities become unavoidable.

The Colonel's disorder prevented his waiting upon Sindia yesterday evening according to appointment.

I am, Sir, etc.,
(Signed) WILLIAM PALMER,
Assistant.

No. 133—The Resident sends to the Court of Directors a comprehensive review of the situation at Poona and the aims and objects of the various parties at that Court.

FROM—COL. WILLIAM PALMER,
TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY DUNDAS.

Poona, 22nd August 1798.

Sir,

I am directed by the Earl of Mornington to inform you of the progress or result of a negotiation which His Lordship has entrusted me to open with this Court, for furnishing a British force from Bombay, for the protection of the Paishwa's person and authority, on certain stipulations essential to the British interests and security in India.

His Lordship's great object in this proffered aid to the Paishwa is by enabling him to recover his authority and to revive all the energies of his government, to place the Mahratta state in a condition to fulfil its engagements to the Company in the war with which it is menaced, by the unprovoked aggressions of Tippoo Sultaun

It is with equal concern and surprise that I acquaint you, the Paishwa has declined for the present to accept of the succour offered, although until my latest communications with him, he had urged it with the utmost solicitude.

Various reasons may be assigned for this change in the Paishwa's sentiments, but it may suffice to state only two which appear to me adequate to the effect. His expectation of concluding an alliance with the Nabob Nizam Ally Khan, and his relief from encroachments of Dowlut Rao Sindia in consequence of dissensions in the family of that chieftain, which have induced the revolt of a considerable part of his army

I am, however, much mistaken if Bajy Row will not be disappointed in his hopes, which he has founded on both these circumstances, and if the necessity of his affairs will not soon compel him to recur to our assistance. Sindia's power is not so much depressed that an exertion of it might not prove fatal to the Paishwa. And you will see, Sir, in the propositions which the Resident at Hyderabad is instructed to tender to the Nabob, sufficient reason to doubt the success of the Paishwa's negotiations with that prince.

In the present distracted state of this government, without an efficient administration, (and) the Paishwa, weak and irresolute, and influenced by men void of talents and integrity, I confess, that I should have been very apprehensive of failure on his part in the proposed engagements if he had acceded to them, unless Nana Furnavees were restored to his former situation in the Ministry. The abilities, experience, and influence of that Minister, appear to me to be indispensable to the return of order and tranquillity in the state

In this persuasion, and encouraged by some advances which the Paishwa has made to Nana and by the solicitations of the latter to me, to mediate a reconciliation between them, I have endeavoured to confirm the Paishwa with a disposition which he has evinced of again confiding his interests to the direction of the old Minister, and have consented to guarantee their mutual engagements.

I derive some hope of succeeding in this interposition from a voluntary application to the same effect, which I have received from Emrut Row, the Paishwa's eldest brother by adoption, who has hitherto been the rival and most determined opponent of Nana

If this Minister should be restored to power under such circumstances as alone will induce me to a decided interference in his behalf, I may venture to assure you, Sir, that this state will effectually co-operate in such military plans, as may be adopted for the benefit of the common cause.

The Paishwa has, indeed, unreservedly concurred in a joint letter from the allies to Tippoo, to demand satisfaction for his violation of the treaty, and faithfully promised to supply his due proportion of troops, if hostilities should be unavoidable.

The Governor General has strongly remonstrated with Dowlut Rao Sindia on the obstruction which his position at Poona gives to the operation of the triple alliance, and the indirect service which it renders to the designs of Tippoo; and for this reason as well as that of his dominions in Hindostan being seriously threatened with invasion by Zemaun Shah, His Lordship has earnestly required of him to repair to that quarter, in which case he will concert with him the means of defence against the attempts of the Shah.

I have been prevented by indisposition from waiting on Sindia to learn his sentiments and determination on the requisition of Lord Mornington. But he is certainly precluded from an immediate compliance with it by heavy arrears due to his troops, and these he has no prospect of discharging but by the assistance of Nana Furnavees who has, I believe, engaged to supply him with a sum to satisfy these demands.

By recent concurring intelligence from Delhi, I am informed that Zemaun Shah has received solemn assurances from the neighbouring powers of Persia and Tartary, that they will give no disturbance to his dominions during his expedition into Hindostan, and the invariable testimony of the character and designs of this prince makes his resolution to undertake this enterprize unquestionable, whenever he can secure the tranquillity of his own kingdom. There is reason to expect that his present design has been concerted with our implacable enemy of Mysore.

I have just now received certain intelligence that a large portion of Dowlut Rao Sindia's army, employed separately in Hindostan, have revolted and proclaimed the authority of the late Mahajee Sindia's widows, whose injuries from Dowlut Rao excited the defection among his troops in this quarter, which has now subsisted three months.

No. 134—The Resident acquaints the Governor General with circumstances occurring at the Court of Poona, the most important of which was the Peshwa's effort to seek an alliance with Tipu, in rejection of the one existing with the Company.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 25th August 1798.

I have been honoured with Your Lordship's commands of the 25th ultimo. That part of them which relates to the exclusion of Frenchmen from the service and dominions of the Paishwa, is in effect anticipated, no person of that nation being at present in the Paishwa's employ, as I had the honour to inform Your Lordship in my address of the 11th instant.

Nor do I think there is the smallest disposition in this Court to entertain any subject of France in its pay, but if such should appear, I shall remonstrate against their admission as incompatible with its relations to the Company, and indeed, contrary to stipulation on a fair construction of the 13th article of the treaty of Salbhye. And I shall be careful to make their exclusion a preliminary to new engagements, if the Paishwa should recur to Your Lordship's propositions.

Your Lordship's sentiments of the injustice and impolicy of obtruding Nana Furnavees into power, without the consent of the Paishwa, are incontrovertible. And Nana himself disclaims all intention of being so obtruded. It is difficult to discover the determinations of a mind so fluctuating as that of Bajy Row, but the constant declarations which his agents have made to me in his name, have been that he desires to bury all past offences in oblivion, and to restore Nana to his former station in the government. And upon these points, my opinion and advice have been expressly and frequently required.

However sincere these declarations may have been at the time they were made, I have reason to believe that they have not lately been adhered to, and that the motives which influenced the resolutions at the consultation stated in the 13th paragraph of my address of the 11th instant (if such resolution was really passed), still operate to the exclusion of Nana from the Ministry, and to the rejection or suspension of Your Lordship's proposals. For notwithstanding my daily applications for an answer from the Paishwa to Your Lordship's letter for the promised draft of a letter to Tippoo, and after my importunity had five days ago produced a visit from the Chief Moonshy to apologise by frivolous excuses for the delay, and to promise solemnly that the papers should be sent the next day, I am told this day that they are preparing and will be delivered to me two days hence. But I can place no reliance on promises, of which the performance has been protracted fifteen days, without any apparent reason, and must conclude that those persons who at present possess the Paishwa's confidence aim at loosening the connexions between him and the Company, and committing the support of his interests to another power.

Ever since I came to this Residency, I have had reason to complain of unnecessary procrastination and obstruction on every point of application to the Durbar, and of an evident disinclination to all intercourse, except when some immediate purpose of its own was to be obtained.

As my transactions with this Court have hitherto been but of little comparative importance, I have contented myself with temperate representations on the inattention which has been shown towards me, in the hope that moderation and forbearance would induce the Durbar to treat the concerns of the Company with more consideration. But the momentuous objects of Your Lordship's late instructions to me will not

allow me to dispense with the strongest remonstrances on the neglect and indifference with which your proposals have been received, and the personal disrespect evinced towards Your Lordship, by so long neglecting to answer your letter.

I must, however, in a great measure, acquit the Paishwa personally of any intention to weaken the relations subsisting between the two states; weak and irresolute he does not understand his real interests and is susceptible of almost momentary change in his conduct, by following the advice of the person whom he last consults.

I attribute entirely to the counsels of Govind Kishen Kauli the measures which Bajy Row has at present adopted, as well as all the slights and mortifications to which I have been exposed. As the influence of this man has been more or less prevalent, I have experienced a disposition or indifference in the Paishwa's proceedings towards improving his connections with the Company, and inattention or disregard to my representations. He has irreconcilably offended the Nizam and Azim-ul-Omrah, and sees the subversion of his present authority and influence in a closer union of the allied Powers. This is the true motive of his constant and determined opposition to this object, and of his intrigues to interrupt my free intercourse with the Paishwa, and thereby to obstruct Your Lordship's views for the mutual interests and security of both governments. But as the Paishwa is as unsteady in his confidence and attachment to individuals, as he is in his measures, it may be expected that the influence of Govind Kishen will soon be superseded by that of some person of opposite principles and views. I believe, indeed, that he and a few of his dependants are the only persons in the state who would advise the Paishwa to reject the solid and lasting advantages held out to him by Your Lordship's plan.

I am informed that the Paishwa's letter for Your Lordship, and his draft for a joint letter to Tippoo, have been some days prepared and put into proper form for dispatch, but are detained from the Paishwa's inspection by Govind Kishen.

In my assistant's address of the 15th instant Your Lordship was advised of Emrut Row having applied for my interposition towards a reconciliation between him and Nana Furnavees. I gave a favourable but not a decisive answer to that application. On a second visit from Emrut Row's man and his stating to me his master's conviction that the preservation of Bajy Row's authority, and even the existence of the state, depended on Nana's return to the administration, and that these important considerations had determined Emrut Row to enter into the most cordial and confidential union with Nana, if that Minister was equally disposed to it, I consented to interpose, provided the Paishwa would sanction such engagements as might be concluded between them by my mediation, and in consequence, I sent my Moonshy to acquaint Nana with Emrut Row's

advances and to learn what encouragement he would give to them. Nana received the proposal favourably, but with caution; he observed that the distractions of the state required the sacrifice of all former animosities and present interests to compose them, that for his own part he had certainly banished enmity from his breast, and was disposed to be reconciled with every rival or opponent, that he had never been the enemy of Emrut Row, nor opposed him further than the Row's designs against him made it necessary for his own security, and of course would willingly and sincerely unite with him for the interests of Bajy Row and the safety of the state, if he could rely upon his having discarded all jealousy and distrust from his mind, but that any agreement between them would be improper and useless without the Paishwa's previous consent to it.

Having informed Emrut Row of Nana's answer three days since, I received a message from him by Major Tone, an English officer in command of his regular infantry, to acquaint me that he had in consequence of Nana's wishes informed the Paishwa of his advances for a reconciliation through my good offices, but found him wholly averse to it. Yet it was Emrut Row's opinion, that Bajy Row's objection to it was their coming first from him, but if Nana would express to the Paishwa his wishes to the same effect, Emrut Row had little doubt but they would be approved of, and requested of me to suggest this proceeding to Nana, to which I consented.

Mr. Tone had scarcely left me, when I received a message from Nana to inform me that the Paishwa had recommended it to him to seek a reconciliation with Emrut Row through my mediation and security for their mutual good faiths. And Nana's message was, in consequence of this encouragement from the Paishwa, accompanied, by written propositions of which I transmit a copy and English translate, as the basis of the proposed agreement.

Your Lordship will be forcibly struck by a contradiction so instantaneous and abrupt. But it is little more than may be almost daily observed in the actions of these people, which makes it so difficult to account for their conduct, to explain their motives or to conjecture their designs.

I can have no doubt of the truth of Nana's information, but I am not so confident of the Paishwa's sincerity and lest he should disavow the permission which he has given, I shall require his sanction directly to myself before I interfere.

Should the Paishwa unequivocally consent to this coalition, I shall regard it as an almost certain indication of his desire to rely upon Your Lordship for the support of his government, and of consequence of his intention to fulfil his engagements in the triple alliance.

My enquiries on the subject of correspondence between the Paishwa and Tippoo have been attended with but little success. It is certain that none has passed through the official channel of government. But some suspicions exist of a secret and irregular correspondence of late, with the Paishwa's approbation, although I cannot obtain the least intimation of the nature of it. But admitting the fact it must be of a tendency unfavourable to our interests. I am therefore using every means in my power to make a further discovery.

My late indisposition having prevented my waiting upon Sindia at the time appointed, I have since given him notice that I am ready to attend him whenever he is at leisure to receive my visit, but he has not yet fixed a day for it. Indeed, the increasing perplexity of his situation occupies his entire time and attention. A spirit of contention and insubordination seems to pervade his whole army. Two days ago his regular brigade renounced the authority of M. Dugeon, its commander, in consequence of an order from Mr. Perron in Hindostan, who commands both brigades, to remove him, but Sindia would not have suffered this order to have been executed if it had not been supported by the European officers and troops. His authority at present is little more than nominal in any branch of his service.

I cannot discover that any intelligence has been received here of the seizure of a Vakeel coming to Sindia from Tippoo by the Paishwa's troops, as mentioned to Your Lordship in Captain Kirkpatrick's dispatch of the 7th instant.

The Rajah Sahau, who had made himself master of the town of Sittara and had assembled a promiscuous rabble to disturb the country, has been defeated by Pursaram Bhow, lost the town, and is again shut up in the fort.

This instant the Paishwa has sent for my perusal his draft of a letter to be written to Tippoo, a copy of which with his answer to Your Lordship's letter, he promises to dispatch this evening. But as I suspect his punctuality, I will enclose a copy from one which I have taken, with an English translation, for Your Lordship's information by this post if I have time ; otherwise it shall be forwarded by the next.

At the same time and with great concern, I must acquaint Your Lordship that I have received information through a very respectable channel that about a month ago, a letter was written to Tippoo by Govind Kishen Kauli in the Paishwa's name and with his approbation, to solicit an alliance.

It is immaterial what were the immediate objects of this proposed alliance ; its certain effects must be to dissolve that which subsists between the Company and this state, and with the probable consequence of converting an ally into an enemy.

I am not informed how this proposal has been received, but there is no appearance either here or at Syringputtum, of its having been adopted by the Sultaun, and if the Paishwa should actually forward to Your Lordship the draft of his letter to Tippoo, it will tend to weaken the credibility of my information, or imply that his advances have been rejected

It will not perhaps be impracticable to obtain a copy of the above-mentioned letter, or at least information of its substantial contents, for which my utmost endeavours shall be exerted, and the earliest communication transmitted to Your Lordship if they prove successful

I have the honour to enclose for Your Lordship's information, a copy of my letter to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, written in obedience to your commands of the 25th ultimo. A similar letter was dispatched at the same time to the Chairman of the Secret Committee

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No. 135—*The Resident reports the Peshwa's dissatisfaction with Govind Krish na Kale and his invitation to Nana to accept the Ministry*

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 28th August 1798.

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 25th instant, I have had no communication with the Paishwa or his agents on the subject of your propositions, nor is it my intention to show any anxiety or uneasiness for his embracing them, which would be more likely to excite his suspicion of Your Lordship having some latent view to the advantage of your own Government than to accelerate his acceptance of them. I am still of opinion that the necessity of his affairs will compel him to revive the negotiations and of course facilitate the conclusion of it, or rather that they have already taken this tendency. And I feel the less impatient for the accomplishment of the object, as I have received certain information from the government of Madras of Tippoo having broke up his camp and sent his troops into cantonments

The Paishwa has now given permission to Emrut Row to reconcile his differences with Nana Furnavees, and recommended that it should be effected by my mediation. I wait only for his sanction to me to employ it.

I have been informed by a very respectable authority, that Govind Kishen Kauli having represented to the Paishwa the dangerous consequences of committing himself to the power of Nana, the inveterate enemy of his father, the Paishwa answered, "it is now eight months since I entrusted you with the direction of affairs, and what have you done? The state is in the utmost disorder, no collections from the country, no credit in the city. During all this period, I have remained in a state of the most painful degradation and indigence, and with difficulty have I found even the means

of subsistence for myself and my household. I am resolved to endure this humiliation no longer, and will restore Nana to power, although I were certain that he would make me a prisoner the day after his appointment." Govind Row was confounded with this answer, and made no reply to it. The Paishwa yesterday sent two confidential persons to Nana without consulting Govind Row. I have no doubt but the former will acquaint me with the purport of their mission.

I am also informed, that Dowlut Rao Sindia has consented to reinstate Abba Chitnavees, the firm adherent of Nana, in the administration of his affairs.

Nana Furnavees has voluntarily given me the strongest assurances of maintaining and improving the alliance between the Company and the Mahratta State, and of the faithful performance of all subsisting engagements, if he should be again placed at the head of the administration.

I have this day received the Paishwa's answer to Your Lordship's letter, and also another letter to your address of acknowledgement for the Company's present to him of his father's jewels. These, with a copy of his proposed draft for a joint letter to be written by the allies to Tippoo, I have forwarded to the Persian Translator.

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No. 136—The Resident forwards copies of secret correspondence between Tipu and the Peshwa for the information of the Governor General and fully exposes the duplicity of the Peshwa. This shows how wide spread were the plans of the British Government in establishing their power by overcoming all opponents.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 2nd September 1798.

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 28th ultimo, I have had an interview with Dowlut Rao Sindia, who told me that he had deferred his answer to Your Lordship's letter recommending his proceeding to the defence of his dominions in Hindustan until he could consult with me upon it.

He appeared to be considerably alarmed at the menaced invasion by Zemaun Shah, and to entertain no doubt of that prince's intention if the tranquillity of his own country should permit his undertaking the expedition. He also intimated to me that the Shah had been encouraged to the enterprize by invitation from Lucnow, of which, in fact, a suspicion was generally entertained some time before the death of Asoph-u-Dowlah, and during the Ministry of the Rajah Jaow Loll.

Sindia professed to be entirely disposed to follow Your Lordship's counsel and to carry it into execution as soon as a general reconciliation of parties here should take place, which he said was now far advanced, and he expected, would be accomplished in a few days.

I urged every argument which the subject suggested to confirm Sindia and his ministers who were present, in the disposition in which I found them, representing the great value and importance of his northern possessions, the deplorable condition to which they were reduced both in strength and revenue by the misconduct of his delegates, and the indispensable necessity of his presence to correct the abuses which his absence encouraged, independent of the danger from the threatened attack by the Afghans. I repeated Your Lordship's offer of concerting with him a plan of defence by your united force, when he should be ready in person to give it effect, but that without his presence attended by an adequate force, Your Lordship could not expose yourself to the hazard of engaging in the protection of dominions abandoned by their own sovereign, and nearly ruined by the mismanagement of those persons to whom he had committed the administration of them.

This discourse made a sensible impression on the mind of Sindia and his ministers, and he answered to it himself, that he was convinced of Your Lordship's regard for his welfare and desirous in all circumstances of acting by your advice, and of improving his connection with the Company in such manner as you should judge mutually advantageous, promising to write to Your Lordship to this effect.

It is certain that appearances of final accommodation for some days past have been serious. Frequent conferences have been held between the Paishwa in person, the deputies of Sindia, and the leaders of the insurgent party, some propositions have been admitted, others are under discussion and are only retarded by the difficulties of providing for the subsistence of the chieftains and troops who are to be readmitted into Sindia's service. I understand that both parties concur in Nana Furnavees's return to power, and regard him as the cement of the union which is to take place.

The reconciliation between Emrut Rao and Nana Furnavees still waits the Paishwa's sanction to my interposition to accomplish it. This sanction, I am informed, has actually been given under some stipulation framed by himself, but with his usual inconsistency has been entrusted for delivery to Moonshy Gopaul Rhow, the dependant of Govind Kishen Kauli, by whom it is detained.

I am further informed that the procrastination, evasions, and irresolution of the Paishwa have given such disgust to all the principals engaged in the present struggle, that it is probable they will soon come to some determination without him, and even remove him in favour of Chimna Appa, rather than suffer any longer by his insincerity or inconstancy.

While I am writing, intelligence is brought to me by Meer Fukeer-u-Deen, my native agent, of answers having been received the day before yesterday from Tippoo, to the letters of the Paishwa and Govind Kishen Kauli, and also a letter from Tippoo to Nana Furnavees. The substance of these answers is reported to be as follows. To the Paishwa—"I have received your letter soliciting succour, which I am very desirous of affording to you, but at this time I am meditating a war against the English and in order to carry it on successfully, I have formed an alliance with the French who have already sent me some troops, and I am in expectation of a more considerable force from that nation arriving soon at Mangalore. With these circumstances the English are acquainted, and as I am not prepared to commence hostilities I have put a stop to appearances, but shall secretly continue my preparations until my designs are ripe for execution. This situation precludes my affording you the assistance which you require at present. But you would accelerate this object by joining me in the war which I intend against the English, or should you be unable to assist me, I depend at all events, upon your neutrality".

To Govind Kishen Tippoo writes, that he is sensible of his attachment, and depends upon his disposing the Paishwa to enter into his views. That he formerly had a reliance on Nana Furnavees also, but had been since disappointed by him. He had however now written to that Minister, and hoped to reclaim him to his interests. The letter to Nana is said to be principally to the above effect, but it has not yet been delivered. I have no doubt but Nana will favour me with a perusal of it, if it should come to his hands.

The person who furnished the intelligence of this correspondence is a Muttasuddy in one of the offices under Govind Kishen, and who has frequently given accurate and important information to Sir Charles Malet, for which I understand he was suitably rewarded. I have encouraged him to expect remuneration in proportion to the veracity and importance of his communications.

Tippoo's letters were brought by express messengers on camels, some other minute circumstances are mentioned tending to establish the certainty of their arrival, of which, indeed, I entertain no doubt; and admitting the report of the contents of the letters to be true, they will afford Your Lordship an additional proof of the determined and implacable animosity of Tippoo to the British name and nation, and of the want of principle or consistency or of both in this Court, in proposing engagements with Tippoo, without any regard to or consideration of the consequences which they must produce on those subsisting between it and the Company. And I fear that neither stability, wisdom or good faith are to be expected in the transactions of this government unless Nana Furnavees is restored to the direction of them.

I have been honoured with Your Lordship's commands of the 9th ultimo. My late advices will have removed your apprehensions, excited by my letter of the 13th ultimo, for the safety of the Paishwa's person, and have informed you that neither of the circumstances under which you had been pleased to provide for his security at present exists to make him personally an object of your solicitude

No. 137—The Resident proposes to remonstrate strongly with the Peshwa in order to defeat the desperate project of his Minister, Govind Krishna Kale, to ally himself with Tipu, which would make the Marathas a dangerous enemy to the British nation in India.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 4th September 1798

My Lord,

I am informed that terms of accommodation between Dowlut Rao Sindia and his disaffected Sirdars are concluded, but mutual distrust prevents their being carried into execution. How they will remove this difficulty I am at a loss to conjecture.

Narain Row Bukshy, the leader of the discontented party, sent a messenger to acquaint me that it was Sindia's intention to propose my guarantee for their mutual security, and to enquire whether I was willing to interpose it. I answered that not the smallest intimation of such an intention in Sindia had been given to me, nor would I comply with the request, if it should be made.

It is not improbable that Sindia may make such an application to me. But unless my interference can essentially promote Your Lordship's views in the settlement of the Paishwa's government, I shall wholly decline it.

Emrut Row is very importunate for my guarantee to the proposed agreement between him and Nana Furnavees, but I have told him that the Paishwa's consent first signified to me is indispensable, and that their union would be of no public benefit without it.

In the course of conversation on this subject Emrut Row's agent informed me, that Govind Kishen Kauli obstructed the reconciliation to preserve his own power, and for the same purpose was endeavouring to disengage the Paishwa from his alliance with the Company and to effect an intimate union between him and Tippoo.

This information may have been calculated to stimulate my compliance with the object of his visit, but I fear there is no much foundation for it.

It would not be difficult to convince the Paishwa of the danger of a connexion with Tippoo, but Govind Kishen studiously impedes my communication with him.

Two days ago, Gopal Row, the Paishwa's confidential Moonshy, sent me word that he was desirous of an interview with me without the presence of a third person, to which I immediately consented, desiring him to choose his own time, but have neither seen him nor heard from him since ; perhaps the message was an artifice to suspend my interference in the intended coalition between Emrut Row and Nana.

It is my intention unless I can obtain a personal conference with the Paishwa, to remonstrate by memorial on the reports which have reached me of his correspondence and designs with Tippoo, and to declare that Your Lordship will regard any engagements which he may form with that prince under his recent infractions of the treaty of Serungputtun, as a virtual dissolution of the alliance subsisting between the Company and the Mahratta state.

I trust that Your Lordship will admit the necessity of this strong or explicit proceeding to defeat the desperate projects of Govind Kishen, who, to perpetuate his Ministry, wishes to render this state either an useless ally or a dangerous enemy to the British Nation in India.

No. 138—The Resident reports to the Governor General that the Peshwa had met Nana Fadnis and reappointed him as his Minister.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 8th September 1798.

My Lord,

The information which I had the honour to give Your Lordship in my last address of the adjustment of the disputes between Sindia, his family and Sirdars, has been confirmed to me by Emrut Row. The principal conditions of the agreement are, that the ladies of Mahajee Sindia's family shall return to the protection of Dowlut Row and receive an increase of one lack of rupees annually to their former jaghire, and the insurgent chiefs and troops return to their obedience and service on full pardon and reinstatement in their respective stations.

I understand that both parties have it still in contemplation to apply for my guarantee to this accommodation, but that my refusal will not defeat it.

If I could by such guarantee procure the immediate departure of Dowlut Row Sindia and to obtain the return of Nana Furnavees to power, I should not hesitate to engage in it as the most probable or rather only means of retaining this state in its engagements to the Company, and of averting the danger of its entering into an alliance with Tippoo. For I can scarcely admit the possibility of its remaining neutral in a contest between that prince, the Company and Nizam

I do not yet know what effect will be produced or is intended on the Paishwa's situation by the reconciliation of parties in Sindia's government. But the treaty has been concluded under his auspices, if he is not a party to it

It appears almost indispensable to the relief of Dowlut Row's pecuniary necessities, that he should procure the reinstatement of Nana Furnavees in the uncontrolled direction of the affairs of this government, and this measure will, I apprehend, be insisted upon and enforced without much regard to the Paishwa's inclination

I am, however, by no means certain that the Peshwa will show any great reluctance to readmit Nana to power. The disordered state of the country and his personal distresses have made him sensible of the want of that Minister's experience, abilities, and influence, and he must know that Nana's fidelity will depend upon the confidence and security which he receives from him, as under these circumstances the Minister would have no temptation to expose himself to the evils inseparable from the change of a lawful sovereign for an usurper.

I do not understand that the Paishwa has any personal attachment to Govind Kishen, who has only obtained a temporary influence by flattering him that he can recover his authority and retrieve his affairs by intrigue with the contending parties in the state without subjecting himself to the consequences of foreign interference, but in this expectation he must soon be undeceived, or perhaps is so already.

Yesterday I received a note from Gopal Row Moonshy informing me that the Paishwa had appointed that day for Nana Furnavees to wait upon him. But the meeting (*I do not know for what cause*) was postponed until this day, and Nana is now on his way to the palace. I regard the intimation coming from Gopal Row as a favourable indication of the Paishwa's being reconciled to Nana, as the Moonshy knowing this event would be agreeable to me, was perhaps desirous of being the messenger of good news

Nana informs me that Tippoo's letter for him mentioned in my last has not reached him, and he assures me that if he recovers his influence he will employ it to the utmost to prevent any connection between that prince and this state

A promise has been given to me of a copy of Tippoo's letter to the Paishwa, and in hopes of obtaining it I have deferred my intended

expostulation on the subject of his intercourse with that prince. The delay will not be attended with any ill consequence, as no negotiation has ensued, and the immediate objects of his application will cease by his accommodation with Sindia or be defeated by the removal of Govind Kishen.

Yesterday evening I attended Dowlut Row Sindia by invitation at a religious festival. No business was proposed or intended at this visit, but he discovered great inquisitiveness and anxiety for intelligence of the motives of Zemaun Shah, which I regarded as a stronger symptom of his desire to proceed to the defence of his dominions in Hindostan than the direct assurances which he gave me of it.

I have received information from the acting Resident at Hyderabad of his negotiations for a new subsidiary engagement between the Company and Nizam being successfully closed. When I make a formal communication of it to the Paishwa, it will probably produce some disclosure of his real intentions respecting the objects which Your Lordship has proposed to him, and the obligations by which he is bound to your Government, although I have little expectation that he will embrace the one and fulfil the other so long as Govind Kishen has any ascendancy in his councils.

The meeting between the Paishwa and Nana took place in the plain between the city and Sindia's camp, which I understand was intended to confer greater honour on Nana by the Paishwa's going out to meet him than if the interview had been at the Palace. I am in hopes that it is the prelude of his reinstatement in the Ministry, from which I shall feel the greatest confidence in the future conduct of this government in all its relations to that of Your Lordship.

No. 139—Palmer denounces the procrastinating temper of the Peshwa and proposes to tell him flatly that his residence at Poona would be useless, unless he should have a ready and direct approach to the Peshwa whenever that was needed.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 15th September 1798.

My Lord,

I have had the honour to receive Your Lordship's commands of the 19th ultimo. I do not apprehend that any ill consequences will ensue from Captain Kirkpatrick's hasty interpretation of Your Lordship's intentions respecting Dowlut Row Sindia and Tippoo Suldaun, since the former professes to be fully sensible of Your Lordship's sincere regard for his

welfare in the advice which you have given him to repair to the defence of his dominions in Hindostan, and your desire to cooperate in that object. And Your Lordship will have perceived by the draft of the Paishwa's proposed letter to Tippoo, that he clearly understands your wish to avoid hostilities with that prince, if he will make reasonable satisfaction for his late unprovoked aggressions

I have communicated to Sindia the intelligence from Puttiala enclosed in Your Lordship's letter, for which he has expressed his acknowledgments, and desires to be favoured with any further advices of Zemaun Shah's motions which I may receive and deem important or authentic. He appeared to be earnestly labouring to compose the distractions of this state, that he may proceed to Hindostan where the disorders of his government are nearly as alarming as the threatened invasion of the Abdallies

I transmit by this post to the Persian interpreter, Sindia's answer to Your Lordship's letter, which appears to me to contain as strong assurances as his present circumstances will admit, without promising more than he might be able to perform, and I am persuaded that Your Lordship will deem them satisfactory

Six days have elapsed since I sent to request an audience of the Paishwa on receiving advice from Captain Kirkpatrick of his having concluded the proposed new treaty with the Nizam, which I wished to impart to the Paishwa before it should reach him through other channels, in order to preclude any misconception of its nature regarding his interests. I received an answer that he would inform me on the next day when it would suit him to receive my visit, but from that time have not had the smallest intimation on the subject.

I did not expect, after the remonstrances which I lately made on the apparent indifference and slight with which my offers of communication had been treated and the apologies which were made for it, that I should so soon experience a repetition of the same conduct. I do not suspect the Paishwa of being privy to it, he has evidently no interest in showing disrespect towards Your Lordship's government. I must therefore attribute the incivility with which I am treated, to the determination of Govind Kishen Kauli to obstruct as much as possible my intercourse with the Paishwa, and to create a misunderstanding between the two states.

Desirous of maintaining harmony and cordiality in all my transactions with this government, and to retain it in all its relations of amity and alliance with the Company, I have refrained from all menace or asperity of reproach in representing my sentiments and feelings on the disrespect shewn to Your Lordship and contempt to myself. But I find that too much forbearance is as useless as it is discreditable, and that it is only by a declared resolution of not submitting to unmerited indignity that it can be avoided.

It is indeed, now become indispensable to the conduct of public affairs that I should insist upon access to the Paishwa, whenever I have important business to communicate. For, as Govind Kishen is the medium of all other mode of intercourse, I have reason to suspect that only such communications as are agreeable to him will reach his master, I shall therefore state to the Paishwa the difficulty which I find on every occasion of desiring admission to his person, and of obtaining answers to any application which I make for that purpose to his servants, and that, unless these obstacles are removed and a free interchange of communication established, my residence at his Durbar can be productive of no advantage to either government and is disrespectful to that of Your Lordship.

It is with much reluctance that I have again brought this disagreeable subject to Your Lordship's notice. But it leads to consequences too important to admit of my suppressing it. It marks how determinedly adverse the Paishwa's present Minister is to the views and interests of the Company, and how ineffectual my endeavours to promote them must prove while his influence prevails.

I was in expectation that by this time I should have been able to have informed Your Lordship of the certainty of a change in the Paishwa's Ministry, and consequently in my expectation of the success of the measures proposed by Your Lordship for securing the great object of the triple alliance. I understand that Sindia makes the reinstatement of Nana Furnavees a preliminary to his accommodation with the Paishwa, and the report is corroborated by the anxiety which the enemies of that Minister evince to make their peace with him, but I am just now informed, that this event is likely to be retarded by the unexpected refusal of Narain Row Bukshy to confirm the agreement which, as I had the honour to inform Your Lordship in my last, had been concluded between Sindia and the disaffected part of his family and troops.

The cause assigned for Narain Row Bukshy's retracting his consent to the treaty, is Sindia's declining to restore Balloo Tantia to the direction of his affairs, a condition incompatible with any engagements which may be supposed to subsist between Sindia and Nana Furnavees, since the disgrace and misfortunes of the latter were procured by Tantia.

It is not improbable that Narain Row has been excited to this new requisition by Govind Kishen, the continuance of the troubles being in strict conformity to his interests; a general pacification would be fatal to his present power and influence, and I fear that he has persuaded the Paishwa to believe that his prosperity also will be best promoted by dissensions in Sindia's family and government.

I have not yet been furnished with a copy of Tippoo's letter to the Paishwa, the person who gave me intelligence of the correspondence, not being, as he says, in the same degree of trust that he lately was. In this state of my information, it may be advisable to defer an expostulation

which might produce serious consequences. At any rate the charge would be denied if founded only on a simple affirmation, and precautions would be taken to prevent a further discovery

I learn from Sheshaudry Pundit that at a visit which he made yesterday to Dowlut Row, the latter dropped a hint of his suspicion that the obstinacy of Narain Rao Bukshy was fomented by the Paishwa, and of his convictions that the dissensions in his family and government would never be composed while Bajy Rao is on the musnud. I cannot conceive on what support the Paishwa relies for his security against the effects of Sindia's resentment of the suspected duplicity and irreconcilable enmity, and his danger under such circumstances is so evident, that I cannot suppose he will render Sindia desperate by much longer protracting an accommodation.

No. 140—The Resident reports to the Governor General the details of the audience he had with the Peshwa, who apologized for the slights and inattention shown to the Colonel and promised that they would not be repeated in future

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th September 1798.

My Lord,

I had the honor to address Your Lordship on the 15th instant. I obtained an audience on the 16th at which I imparted to him the new subsidiary treaty concluded between His Highness the Nizam and the Acting Resident at Hyderabad on the part of the Company, and transmitted for Your Lordship's ratification.

The Paishwa observed that the interests and security of the three states were inseparable, and of course he could not but feel satisfaction at the strengthening of the alliance between those of the Company and Nizam. But he wished to be informed of Your Lordship's objects in the additional force to be supplied to His Highness and the conditions on which it was granted

I answered that the ultimate object in an increase of the Company's troops stationed with the Nizam, was the same as that which I had stated on presenting to himself Your Lordship's propositions for similar aid, to secure the effectual operation of the triple alliance in the event of Tippoo Sultan persisting in his infractions of the treaty of Syringputum. That His Highness's present force and the tranquil state of his dominions

rendered him fully adequate to the performance of his engagements in the defensive triple alliance, if the services of his whole force could be relied upon. But that the most considerable part of his infantry being commanded by French officers whose nation had engaged in an offensive alliance with Tippoo against the Company and its allies, it was not to be expected that the corps so commanded could be brought to take an active part against the enemy, and it therefore became indispensable to provide against such a contingency by the supply of a body of troops, which could be effectually employed in the field.

That with respect to the conditions on which the additional force was supplied, they were expressly the same as those stipulated for the service of the detachment now at Hyderabad, except the consequent increase of subsidy, and no extension of service was to be admitted without the Paishwa's previous consent.

Bajy Row expressed much satisfaction at this explanation, observing that he recollected when the Mahratta army marched against the Nizam, the Company's troops were not permitted to take the field with His Highness, and immediately added, that he had it in contemplation to connect his government with that of the Company by the same ties, as the Nizam had united himself with it, and would send Gopal Row Moonshy to me in the course of a few days to discuss the propositions which Your Lordship had tendered to him.

It can scarcely be doubted that the Paishwa is sensible of the great advantages which the Nizam will derive from so formidable a body of the Company's troops being stationed in his dominions for the support of his government, and for the defence and tranquillity of his country, and that he must wish to be upon a footing with His Highness in these respects. But I am apprehensive that these considerations will not prevail against the systematical jealousy of this government of every description of foreign influence, especially while the Paishwa is persuaded that the extension of our subsidiary aid to the Nizam is perfectly ineffective to this state. I have therefore little expectation that the Paishwa will at present enter seriously into negotiation on Your Lordship's propositions, nor if he should, that it can be brought to a conclusion under the insuperable difficulty of assuring funds for the regular discharge of the subsidy.

These objections, however, would probably be removed at once by the return of Nana Furnavees to power. His ability to provide for the payment of such a force as he might consent to subsidize is undoubted, and as it would be the surest support of his own authority, he would eagerly embrace the offers for its services to the state. It may, perhaps, be in consequence of a resolution to reinstate him in the ministry that the Paishwa has signified his desire to enter into negotiations with me.

I endeavoured by turning my discourse on Tippoo to discover some indication of an intercourse subsisting between the Paishwa and him and of what nature. I observed that the Sultaun being disappointed of the succours which he expected from the French, would probably relinquish his hostile designs against the Company and give Your Lordship and the allies reasonable security against future aggression. I could easily observe, that the Paishwa was pleased with this opinion by his readily concurring in it. But no intimation escaped him of any direct correspondence by which he could judge of Tippoo's real designs. I am nevertheless very apprehensive that he is fully informed of them, and but little disposed to take his station in the triple alliance for opposing them.

Two days ago Govind Kishen waited upon Nana Furnavees to ask his opinion of the existing defensive engagements of the allied Powers, and of the war meditating against Tippoo, grossly misrepresenting to Nana the circumstances of the Sultaun's aggressions, and stating that the British Government sought to extirpate him for no higher provocation than affording an asylum to a few vagrant Frenchmen.

Nana knowing that his sentiments on these subjects would be misrepresented unless they coincided with the views of Govind Kishen, declined to answer the enquiries until he could confer confidentially with the Paishwa in person.

Govind Kishen was prevented by indisposition from attending at my interview with the Paishwa, who was probably less explicit than if the Minister had been present, for I observed him to check the Moonshy on his shewing an intention to speak to me of himself.

The Paishwa's final resolution respecting his engagements to the allies seems to depend on his retaining Govind Kishen in the ministry, or restoring Nana Furnavees to it, and at present he is hesitating between his dislike of the latter and the necessity of employing him. I am however of opinion that the last consideration, supported as it is by the general voice, will prevail.

Wishing to know whether the Paishwa was acquainted with the slights and mortifications to which I have been subjected on almost every application to him through his servants, I took the opportunity of this visit to state them to him and the effects which such conduct might produce on the good understanding which has so long and happily subsisted between him and the Company's Government. I found to my great concern that he was not ignorant of the repeated and unmerited neglect which I have so often experienced, and he was evidently confounded at my representation. He apologized for it on the present occasion by the indisposition of his ordinary agent, and his own constant occupation for some days in solemnizing the annual rites of one of his deities, declared the strongest attachment to the Company, and respect for Your Lordship's

person and government, expressed himself in terms of great personal regard for me entirely satisfied with my conduct, promising that I should have no future cause of complaint.

I learn that Narain Row Bukshy is excited by Lasawa Dada and Jagu Bapoo, the leaders of Sindia's insurgent troops in the north, to insist upon the restoration of Balloo Tantia to the direction of affairs and if it is refused, to join them in Hindostan. Yesterday Narain Row and his party took a position to favour his retreat to that quarter.

No. 141—The Resident communicates his reflections to the Governor General upon several topics, a possible reconciliation of all conflicting counsels, the progress of the dispute between Sindia and his ladies, the proposal of Tipu to send an accredited agent to stay at the Peshwa's Court and the restoration of Nana to the Ministry.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 22nd September 1798.

My Lord,

I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 18th instant.

A meeting took place on the 19th between the Paishwa, Dowlut Row Sindia, Emrut Row, and Nana Furnavees near the city. It was merely ceremonious and preparatory to further intercourse, and yesterday Dowlut Row and Nana waited upon the Paishwa at an entertainment in the palace.

It is understood that a reconciliation between the persons above named will soon follow the civilities which have passed, but I believe that the conditions of it are yet to be discussed.

The ladies of Mahajee Sindia's family and the chiefs who support their cause, still insist upon the reinstatement of Balloo Tantia as security for Dowlut Row's performance of his engagements to them, but which neither he nor his present Ministers are disposed to admit.

Two days ago, I received a visit from Sheshaudry Pundit and Anund Row, the Nizam's Vakeels at this court, the purport of which principally was to inform me of their having received instructions from His Highness to communicate to me constantly the state and progress of their negotiations, and to request at this time, that I would endeavour to dispose Nana Furnavees to admit of His Highness's mediation for reconciling him with the Paishwa, and for restoring him to the ministry.

I had already been informed by Captain Kirkpatrick of the Nizam's instructions to his Vakeels on these subjects, and under the conviction of Your Lordship's views in the alliance with this state being unattainable but by the ministry of Nana, and perceiving that my own efforts to promote this object rather retarded than accelerated it, by exciting a jealousy of our influence in the mind of the Paishwa, I readily assented to His Highness's request, but observed to the Vakeels that the same obstacle would probably occur to the Nabob's interposition as to mine, and as there were favourable appearances of Nana's regaining his station by the necessary operation of existing circumstances, it might be advisable to defer all foreign interference. In this opinion the Vakeels concurred and said, that for the present, they would only impart to Nana my assent to their master's mediation. But having I suppose, some previous knowledge of the Paishwa's disposition which they did not disclose to me, they have applied to him for his permission to admit the Nizam to become his security to Nana Furnavees for his abstaining from all injury or insult towards that Minister in future, to which the Paishwa consented, and gave the Vakeels permission to inform Nana of it, and promised to give them a letter to the Nabob to that effect.

From this ready consent of the Paishwa to assure to Nana the safety and respectability of his person, it may be inferred that he either has resolved on restoring him to power, or is at least desirous of keeping the prospect of it open, until the situation of affairs enables him to come to a final determination. But I am of opinion that the necessities of Sindia will not leave it much in the Paishwa's choice to accept or reject of Nana's restoration.

The Nizam's Vakeels at their visit informed me by the desire of Nana Furnavees, that Tippoo had signified to the Paishwa his intention of deputing a person of distinction to reside as his Vakeel at this Court, and requesting that passports might be immediately transmitted for his safe conduct, that the Paishwa had consented to receive the Vakeel but had deferred forwarding the passports until he should arrive upon the frontier, as it was judged expedient that I should not be informed of the circumstance until that Vakeel had made that progress on his way hither.

It appears to me that the Sultaun's object in this mission can be no other than that of separating the Paishwa from the triple alliance, and engaging him in a counter alliance with himself. The Paishwa, however, being no longer under those apprehensions which induced him in despair of timely succour from us to apply for the dangerous aid of Tippoo, has little motive to engage in the views of that prince at the expense of his present and secure connexions. But whatever may be the real designs of either party, I shall derive both the right of enquiring into them and the means of discovering them, in a greater degree than hitherto, from the admission of the Sultaun's public minister.

I next learnt that Letchmy Bye and the other ladies of the late Sindia's family have agreed to an interview with Dowlut Row from which hopes are entertained of a final accommodation.

Nana Furnavees has consented to supply Sindia with fifteen lacks of rupees in addition to the ten lately furnished, five lacks to be paid on Nana's going to reside in the city, and ten lacks upon Sindia's arrival at Jaumgaum, on his return to Hindostan, an event which I begin to hope is at no great distance.

Yesterday evening I waited upon the Paishwa at an entertainment by his invitation, at which he enquired of me whether I had heard of what had happened that day, and how it had affected me, alluding to the visit of Dowlut Row Sindia and Nana. I replied, that I could not but be informed of a circumstance so public, and that as a symptom of returning order in his Government and harmony in the state, it gave me the sincerest satisfaction, but that I was unacquainted with any particular arrangements which might have been either the cause or the consequence of this meeting, on which Moonshy Gopal Row observed to me emphatically, that has happened which you wished. This intimation from so reluctant a quarter makes me willing to believe that it implies the Paishwa's consent to place Nana at the head of the administration. But at any rate matters appear to be now so ripe for decision that it cannot be many days deferred, whatever turn it may take.

No. 142—The Resident reports to the Governor General the conversation which his Munshy had with Nana Fadnis deploring the weak and treacherous character of Bajirao and Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 29th September 1798.

My Lord,

No change in the situation of the contending parties in this state has taken place since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 22nd instant, nor did I receive any further information of their intentions until the 26th when my agent Meer Fukeerud-Dien, who had waited upon Nana Furnavees by his desire, reported to me the communications made to him by that minister.

Nana said, that he had been prevented by constant occupation in Sindia's affairs from imparting to me so early as he intended, the conversation between him and the Paishwa at their late interview. That after a very gracious reception Bajy Row gave him assurances of perfect reconciliation and return of confidence, and desired him to return to his

habitation in the city with the fullest reliance of entire security to his person and property, and observing that to remove all apprehension on these subjects from his mind he has consented to Nizam Ally Khan being the guarantee of his promises. The Paishwa added that the disorders which had so long prevailed in the state, and endangered its very existence could only be remedied by Nana's wisdom, experience, and moderation with which, the Paishwa hoped, he would not refuse to assist him in so arduous a conjuncture, but if Nana should determine not to resume the administration of the government, he was at liberty to remain in a private station and to reside at Poona or elsewhere he thought proper

Nana, after suitable acknowledgments for the Paishwa's kind and generous professions, assured him that he was sincerely attached to his authority, interests, and honour, and felt the strongest desire to be serviceable to the state. But before any arrangements respecting his Ministry could be made, it was indispensable to accommodate the affairs of Sindia, that he might proceed to Hindostan. In this previous measure the Peshwa concurred, and in this state the subject remains between them

Nana Furnavees next desired I might be informed that seeing the necessity of Sindia's departure to any settlement of this government, he had undertaken to mediate the differences between that chief and his family and sirdars, and had engaged to furnish him with a sum sufficient to satisfy his troops, on condition that the last instalment should be reserved until his arrival at Burhanpore. That his proposal for conciliation had been assented to by Sindia, and that the ladies and their adherents were advancing towards Sindia's camp in order to treat.

Nana then proceeded to state, that Govind Kishen Kauli having waited upon him lately, he took occasion to mention the rumours which he had heard of correspondence between the Paishwa and Tippoo and desired Govind Kishen to inform him if they were true. The latter answered that a letter from the Suldaun to the Paishwa had been received about a month ago, and on Nana's desiring to know the subject of it, answered that it contained only a proposal to depute a confidential person to confer with the Paishwa, to which the Paishwa had consented, but desired that the Vakeel should be directed to halt upon the frontier until desired from hence to proceed. Nana then enquired of Govind Kishen whether he had informed the Company's Resident of this circumstance, who answered that he had not, upon which Nana observed, that he thought he had acted wrong, considering the connexion and engagements subsisting between the Company and this government, and the reasons which at this time the former have to be suspicious of Tippoo's designs. To this observation Govind Kishen answered that the Resident would be informed of the deputation when it arrived on the frontier.

Nana concluded by saying that the want of wisdom and integrity in almost every person on whose station or influence it depends to restore order and tranquillity to the state, discouraged him from giving an opinion of what may finally result from the state of things as he has described. But that he would regularly and explicitly advise me of all occurrences in the prosecution of the objects which all parties had, or professed to have in view.

If I may hazard a conjecture where Nana Furnavees hesitates, it is that the unprincipled persons who influence the conduct of those weak men, Bajy Row and Sindia, will yet protract the desired pacification, if not totally defeat it, by violence or treachery to obtain their own selfish purposes during a precarious ascendancy.

Sindia is, I believe, desirous of marching for the recovery of his authority and the defence of his dominions in Hindostan. But perilous as his situation is, both in that quarter and in this, he makes no personal exertions to extricate himself but is entirely resigned to the guidance of his Ministers, scarcely ever giving an opinion on their measures or proposals.

The very extraordinary and interesting intelligence of the progress to the French arms in Egypt and the professed designs of that people to extend their enterprize to India, has suggested to me many strong arguments to be urged to the Paishwa for his immediate and unlimited adoption of Your Lordship's proposals for giving full effect to the defensive triple alliance, and his only lasting security against the confederacy of Tippoo and the French. I have requested therefore, that I may be indulged with an audience as early as it may suit the Paishwa's leisure and convenience.

No. 143—The Resident answers the charges of negligence brought against him by the Governor General in not pursuing the negotiations zealously and directly with the Peshwa and in attempting to bring about the restoration of Nana to power.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 2nd October 1798.

My Lord,

My last address to Your Lordship was on the 29th ultimo, since which I have obtained of the Paishwa the audience for which, as I had the honour to inform you, I had applied to him.

At this conference Emrut Row assisted for the first time that I have met him at the Paishwa's, the other persons present were Chimna Appa, Govind Kishen Kauli and Moonshy Gopal Rao.

I informed the Paishwa of the invasion of Egypt by the French, and of the project which they are reported to have formed in conjunction with Tippoo, for subjecting Hindostan, stating the facility which would be afforded them of carrying this design into execution by their position on the Red Sea

I briefly related the rise and rapid progress of the present French Power, its perfidy, tyranny, and insatiable ambition, and the destructive use which it makes of its successes. I observed to the Paishwa that his only security was in cordially uniting with the Company and Nizam in the means of vigorous defence, for no conciliatory conduct which he could now pursue towards Tippoo would expiate the part which this State had taken in the late war, and the resentment caused thereby. No Government in India would be safe against the combination of two such unprincipled Powers as the Sultaun and the French, but by opposing them with superior force.

That although it was not probable, considering our great superiority at sea, that the French should be able to join Tippoo with such an armament as would be equal to the execution of their designs, it would be highly improvident to neglect any measure of defence, which wisdom or prudence may suggest. On this reasoning Your Lordship and the Nizam had entered into early precautions for the common safety. But I was concerned to remark, that on the part of this state I saw no appearance of defence or resistance, either separately or in concert with its allies. I trusted, however, that from this statement, the Paishwa would see the necessity of being immediately prepared to co-operate with Your Lordship and the Nizam with vigor and effect

The Paishwa made a few enquiries respecting the force with which the French had invaded Egypt, the time in which they might reach the coast of India from their embarkation on the Red Sea and whether they could undertake the expedition by any other route. When I had given him the best information I could on these points, he said, that he was sensible of the danger to which the allies are exposed by the schemes of Tippoo and the French, and he had been attentive to this situation from the time of Your Lordship's first advices on the subject, and had written to desire the Nizam's sentiments on the measures to be adopted for the common safety, that, in fact, he was already in some measure prepared by having a force stationed on the frontiers which could be readily augmented on the approach of danger, or upon a plan of general co-operation being formed. He concluded by desiring that I would assure Your Lordship of his determination to fulfil his engagements in the defensive triple alliance.

The force on the frontier to which the Paishwa alluded, consists of 4 or 5,000 horse under the command of Doondea Punt Gokla, who has long been stationed for ordinary services on the borders of Tippoo's and the

the Nizam's dominions. To this force might be immediately added that under Pursaram Bhow of about the same strength, and the Paishwa may in a short time collect a body of 20,000 calvary to act in the field, if he is sincere in his declarations of aiding the common cause with all his power.

I have received Your Lordship's letter of the 9th instant. It gives me inexpressible concern that Your Lordship should attribute to an act of indiscretion in me, and to that solely, the rejection of your propositions to the Paishwa contained in your instructions to me under date the 8th of July.*

I will not presume to assert that my affording to Nana Furnavees the means of obtaining his release, did not excite the jealousy of the Paishwa, or even that it did not produce the effects which Your Lordship ascribes to it, but I am persuaded, that when Your Lordship adverts to the repeated intimations which I had received from the Paishwa of his wish and intention to restore Nana to power and to his giving consent to this very measure, you will be convinced that I could entertain no apprehension of its producing any unfavourable impression on his mind, or that it could, in the smallest degree, influence his decision on Your Lordship's propositions.

I shall immediately, in obedience to Your Lordship's commands, endeavour to remove any suspicions which the Paishwa may have imbibed from the transaction in question, explaining in the terms which Your Lordship has directed and repeat to him the public views on which your propositions were founded, disclaiming any connection between them and the interests of Nana Furnavees or of any individual whatever.

I had some expectation that the subject of my last conference with the Paishwa and the remark which I made of his being unprepared for defence, would have drawn from him some declaration or intimation of his intention to recur to Your Lordship's proposals, especially as he had at my preceding interview, told me that he should direct Gopal Row to attend me in a few days. But as he was quite silent on that point, I conclude that the same considerations, whatever they may be, which at first induced him to decline Your Lordship's offer, still operate to the same effect. It will therefore be but with little hopes of success that I shall obey Your Lordship's commands to renew my negotiations, but (it will be) with a zeal proportioned to the obstacles which I have to surmount and to my uneasiness of mind at Your Lordship's disappointment and your supposition that I have been the occasion of it, though I cannot help flattering myself that a little time will produce proofs of the Paishwa having been actuated in rejecting the propositions by causes very different from that which Your Lordship suspects, and probably such as are assigned in my subsequent letters, and by the Paishwa himself.

* See Wellesley's Despatches by Martin, Vol. I, p. 113.

On reference to Your Lordship's instructions to obtain the Paishwa's concurrence to the demand to be made by the allies to Tippoo Sultaun, I am wholly at a loss to account for having so widely mistaken your meaning, and whether it proceeded from inattention on perusing it, or forgetfulness afterwards, I trust to Your Lordship's goodness for excusing it. But I can assure Your Lordship that the Paishwa by no means considers the stating of his sentiments upon it as giving him the lead, or intends that it should have any operation in opposition to Your Lordship's opinion of the satisfaction and security to be required.

This morning a Moonshee in the Paishwa's employ and confidence, came to Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien, my native agent, sent secretly by the Paishwa to acquaint the agent that the Paishwa wished to see him privately on very important business at which no other person would be present, and desired he would apply for my permission to that effect. This I have given and my agent waits the Paishwa's summons.

No intimation was given by the messenger of the subject which the Paishwa desires to impart, and the only conjecture which I can form of it is founded upon a rumour of Dowlut Row's intending to restore Balloo Tantia to the administration of his affairs as the only means left of restoring harmony to his family and reclaiming his disaffected Sirdars and troops, who are strongly attached to Tantia.

As the Paishwa attributed to the counsels of that Minister the first encroachments on his authority by Sindia, it is probable that he wishes to consult with me on the means of providing against the consequences of Tantia's return to power, without the knowledge of Govind Kishen who is in his interests. And I am not without hope that the Paishwa will be convinced that his best security against all dangers is in the most extensive adoption of Your Lordship's plan.

No. 144—News about the fears of Nana Fadnis and the pending dispute of Sindia with the Ladies is conveyed to the Governor General by the Resident in this letter.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 6th October 1798.

My Lord,

The divisions in Sindia's family and army are still protracted and impending, and are assigned as the cause of the intended rearrangement of the Paishwa's administration.

Lechmy Bye and her adherents are now encamped within ten coss of Sindia's cantonments for the greater convenience of negotiating, and both parties have committed their interests to the mediation of Nana Furnavees.

It has been proposed to the latter by the ministers of Dowlut Row that he should repair to the camp of the insurgents in order to treat with them in person, but Nana having reason to suspect that treachery is intended towards him in this proposal, has declined it. He has received information of a design of Raijee Patil and Baboo Angria in concert with Colonel Filose, to obtain possession of his person, and that they have actually applied to Sindia to deliver him into their custody. But that Sindia positively refused to withdraw his protection from him.

These three persons further meditate the removal of Kishna Chitnavees, Ramjee Patel, and Bannajee Huzrah, the adherents of Nana, and the recall of Surajjee Ghatky and Fukeerjee Garway to their former stations. In these parts of their schemes Sindia concurs for the sake of recovering his favourites and revenging their disgrace on those who promoted

With such views in Dowlut Row and his ministers, and in the dread which the Bhyes must entertain of seeing the authors of their misfortunes restored to power, it can hardly be supposed that Nana's proposed mediation will be successful, or even his person be safe, notwithstanding the present scruples of Sindia.

Nana Furnavees, although timely apprised of the danger which threatens him from the projects of his adversaries, is without any means of averting it. The Paishwa continues to press his residence in the city and return to the administration, but he would derive no security from that situation, and excuses himself by alleging the necessity of restoring tranquillity in Sindia's government and providing for that chief's return to Hindostan.

The attainment of those objects is a sufficient reason for Nana's declining the Paishwa's invitations. But his apprehensions of Emrut Row notwithstanding their reconciliation and interchange of engagements, is a more powerful motive for his still remaining under protection of Sindia. His suspicion is founded on information of Emrut Row's encouraging the designs of Raijee Patel.

Nana sent for Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien on purpose to communicate the above-mentioned circumstances for my information. Your Lordship will perceive from them how little prospect there is of composing the distraction of Sindia's government or of moving him hence, that order and tranquillity may be restored to that of the Paishwa, without which it will be nearly impracticable for him to make any exertions in the common cause.

Six days have elapsed since I have solicited an audience of the Paishwa, without having received any other notice in answer than a visit from the brother of Gopal Row Moonshy, to enquire the purpose for which I desired it. I did not think proper to give this person any further information than that I had received a letter from Your Lordship, the subjects of which it was necessary to communicate to the Paishwa. My intercourse with Bajy Row, whether in person or by correspondence, is entirely at the discretion of Govind Kishen Kauli and to him I attribute the visit and enquiry of the Moonshy.

I have not been able to obtain any further information of the connection subsisting or projected between this Durbar and Tippoo, nor is there any intelligence of the approach of his Vakeel. It is not very probable that Tippoo will be impatient to form an alliance from which he can expect no immediate or material assistance, and while he must know that it would increase Your Lordship's suspicions of his designs and accelerate your measures to defeat them.

The Paishwa has not yet appointed a time for the private conference which he desired to have with Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien, and to which I signified my assent, as I had the honour to inform Your Lordship in my address of the 2nd instant. This delay I regret exceedingly, as an interview of this nature is perhaps the only means by which I can learn his genuine sentiments, so long as I am nearly excluded from access to him, and my communications in whatever form they are made, are exposed to the inspection of a minister hostile to all connection with the British nation.

No. 145—Palmer informs the Governor General of negotiations having been started by Sindia with his ladies.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 9th October 1798

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address you on the 6th instant, deputies from Dowlut Row Sindia and Nana Furnavees have repaired to the camp of Letchmy Bhye, and those of the Paishwa and Holkar are immediately to follow.

The result of their negotiation, whatever it may be, will, it is supposed, produce the final decision of Sindia on his future measures and the settlement of the Paishwa's administration.

The contending interests of the disaffected party and of Rajee Patel, who is at the head of Sindia's deputation, and the encouragement to

further resistance given to the former by the chiefs of the insurgent troops in Hindostan, afford but little hope of the conferences ending successfully.

The Paishwa after repeated applications has appointed tomorrow evening for my interview with him, when I hope, by a repetition of Your Lordship's sentiments and views and by assurances of my own motives in the attention which I have shewn to Nana Furnavees, to remove from his mind all apprehension of the interests or power of that Minister being complicated with the objects of Your Lordship's propositions.

No. 146—Palmer reports his interview with the Peshwa and the progress of negotiation of the subsidiary alliance. The Peshwa required time to consider his reply.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 13th October 1798.

My Lord,

I waited upon the Paishwa on the 10th agreeably to the appointment which he had made, as I had the honor to inform Your Lordship in my last address. After sitting a few minutes in Durbar he desired me to retire with him to a private apartment, where he was attended by Emrut Row, Chimna Appa, Govind Kishen and Moonshy Gopal Row.

I opened the conversation by acquainting the Paishwa that I had received a letter from Your Lordship in answer to the information which I had given you of his having declined to enter into the engagements which you proposed, or to accept of the aid which you had consented to afford him in consequence of his own solicitations, for the protection of his person and support of his authority. That Your Lordship ascribed his refusal of the assistance which you had so readily granted, entirely to the apprehension excited in his mind by the measure which I had taken to procure the release of Nana Furnavees, of an intention in Your Lordship to procure the return of that Minister to power, and thereby to establish an undue influence in his government.

I then stated to the Paishwa that Your Lordship, under this impression, had directed me explicitly to declare to him that in the propositions tendered to him, you had not the most distant view to the interests or power of Nana Furnavees or any other individual, or to any degree of interference in the internal affairs of his government; but that the objects of them were strictly and exclusively such as I had before explained to him, viz., the safety of his person, the restoration and support of his authority, the

improvement of the mutual interests and security of the allied Powers To these assurances I added, that my becoming security to Sindia for Nana Furnavees was an act of personal kindness and respect, wholly unauthorized by Your Lordship, and unconnected with my public functions, and which I considered as perfectly inoffensive or indifferent to the Paishwa, since he had acquiesced in it, concluding with the strongest professions of my sincere disposition to regulate my conduct on all occasions by a strict regard to the public objects of my station and to his wishes in my intercourse with every subject of his government

The Paishwa answered, that he was fully sensible of Your Lordship's great concern for his honour and prosperity in the ready succour which you had offered to rescue him from the dangers with which he was threatened, and although he had not had recourse to it, because these dangers were apparently removed, he was so far from having relinquished your offer or totally rejecting the engagements which you had proposed, that he still had in contemplation the adoption of both The conditions to be performed on his part, he said, required the most mature consideration, particularly the subsistence of the Company's troops to be employed in his service That he would deliberate with his counsellors on these articles and send Gopal Row to me with his final determination in a few days.

The Paishwa desired me to assure Your Lordship that he does not entertain the smallest apprehension of your wish to possess any undue influence, or to use any improper interference, in his administration, and that he had the firmest persuasion of Your Lordship's views in the proposed engagements being calculated to re-establish his dignity and independence, as well as to promote the great objects of the triple alliance He declared his entire satisfaction in my conduct on all occasions, made acknowledgments for such proofs as I had given him of my regard for his welfare, and said that in the transaction between Sindia and Nana Furnavees, I had contributed towards his views respecting that Minister.

I repeated to the Paishwa the danger which threatened the allies from the projected combination of the French and Tippoo, and the necessity of early preparation to resist the force and designs of these two powers, and as I proceeded to state the principles, he repeatedly assured me, that he would co-operate with Your Lordship and the Nizam, if war should ensue, to the utmost ability of this state.

Of the Paishwa's sincerity in these professions or his real sentiments respecting a closer connection with the Company and Nizam, I have little means of judging His character and conduct are so weak, irresolute, and fluctuating as to imply the want of all system, and a minister averse to our interests prevents my receiving any information but through his agents

Although the Paishwa appears to be fully convinced of the solid and lasting advantages which he would derive from the services of a body of the Company's troops, and experience may have taught him how unable he is to recover his authority and regulate his government by any efforts of his own, I am apprehensive that so long as he is free from the direct encroachments of Sindia he will not have recourse to succour, to the maintenance of which his funds are at present inadequate.

Other motives may operate to the Paishwa's declining the proposed engagements, but providing for the subsidy appears to me to be an obstacle almost insuperable. I wish to request Your Lordship's attention to this subject, as I fear that the Paishwa cannot in the present state of his revenues, make such provision for the discharge of the subsidy as I should deem secure, while it would be difficult to reject similar assurances from him to those which have been accepted at Hyderabad. The important advantages to be obtained by this Court's acceding to all Your Lordship's propositions induce me to suggest to your consideration, whether it might not be advisable to risque affording gratuitous aid to the extent of enabling the Paishwa, by settling his government, to co-operate effectually with the other allies, if hostilities should take place.

I will endeavour to hasten the Paishwa's decision on the whole of the propositions. I have already observed to him that time presses for it, and at every conference have repeated all the arguments which Your Lordship has advanced, together with such as my own observation of the existing state of his affairs have enabled me to add, to induce his embracing Your Lordship's views in their fullest extent.

Whether my representations have really produced on the mind of the Paishwa a conviction of the necessity of adopting Your Lordship's plan for his own permanent safety and power, it is difficult to discover but by events; but if such an impression has been made, it is too liable to be effaced by the continual efforts of Govind Kishen to place our views in an opposite light.

I had formed some expectation of support from the professed and generally believed, attachment of Emrut Row to the interests of the Company, and his desire to improve the connection between it and this state. But whether he is restrained by the jealousy of the Paishwa or expects personal advantages from a different system, he has not uttered a syllable in recommendation of the proposals made to his brother.

In such a situation where the prince is too weak and irresolute to determine for himself, his Minister in avowed opposition to the measures of our Government, and no person in his confidence who has the courage or honesty to show him his true interests, I cannot venture to encourage a reliance on the ability of this state to perform its existing defensive engagements in the event of its being required to act with the other allies in the field.

If the Paishwa should be again exposed to the power and violence of Sindia he would, no doubt, again apply for Your Lordship's protection. But there is little appearance of his being soon reduced to that extremity, and the degree of weakness and degradation which his authority now suffers, he does not, I imagine, feel sufficiently to desire its removal by foreign assistance.

This morning Nana Furnavees sent to inform me that the Paishwa had desired his advice on the answer to be given to Your Lordship's propositions, and that he had given his opinion of the great advantages which the Paishwa would derive from adopting them and also of the impropriety of rejecting assistance, which he had himself solicited.

This day is fixed for opening the conferences between Sindia's deputies and the malcontents. In the mean time his troops are again become very clamorous for their arrears, and if they are not soon satisfied, will probably proceed to violence, of which it is difficult to foresee the consequences.

No. 147—Palmer communicates the progress of negotiations between Sindia and his ladies to the Governor General.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 16th October 1798.

My Lord,

The impending conferences in the camp of the insurgents seem to hold all other measures in suspense, both at the Paishwa's and Sindia's Durbars. The mutual distrust of the principals, and the interested views of their delegates have from the first discouraged the expectation of peace, and the prospect is now understood to be more distant from the assurances which Sindia has received from Ambajee and M. Perron, of their cordial union to repress the insurrection of the troops in Hindostan.

Relying on those assurances, Sindia has determined if the present negotiations should fail, to reduce the disaffected party here by arms. In either event, however, he professes an intention to repair into Hindostan and is endeavouring to raise money for that purpose by advances from his aumils and by loans or contributions from his opulent Sirdars. His success in these endeavours is certainly indispensable to his moving, and more immediately so to appease the dangerous discontents of his army for want of pay. Were this obstacle removed, I see neither pretext nor object for his continuing in the Deccan. But there are no measures too desperate for the adoption of those who influence his conduct, provided they suit their own corrupt views.

The Paishwa appears to be desirous of appeasing these commotions, as he has withdrawn Emrut Row from the party of the Bhyes, has sent deputies to the congress, and has furnished Sindia with letters to the independent Rajahs and to the principal Maharatta commanders in Hindostan, confirming Sindia's authority, and requiring their obedience to it. But his security is doubted by many well-informed persons here.

I have not received any information concerning the Paishwa's deliberations on Your Lordship's proposals, although I sent two days ago, to obtain it from Moonshy Gopal Row. But I just now learn from Sheshaudry Pundit that the Paishwa has signified to Nana Furnavees, that he shall commit to his management the negotiations depending between this state and the Company and the Nizam.

Nana Furnavees having intimated to the Paishwa his wish to receive a complimentary visit from me and the gentlemen attached to the Residency agreeably to former custom, the Paishwa has this morning sent a message to me, signifying his approbation and wishing the visit to be made tomorrow.

No. 148—Palmer reports his ceremonial visit to Nana Fadnis upon the latter assuming the office of Minister of the Peshwa. Other incidents are also communicated.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 20th October 1798.

My Lord,

I have the satisfaction to inform Your Lordship that Nana Furnavees is now the acknowledged Minister of this government. On the 18th previous to my visiting him, Moonshy Gopal Row's brother waited upon me to notify in the name of the Paishwa, that the transactions of the Company with this state were henceforth to be negotiated with Nana Furnavees, and that Minister has since received the congratulations of every person of distinction at the Court and in the city.

As my visit to Nana was merely ceremonious, I did not expect that any subject of business would have been introduced, but my answers to his enquiries respecting the French Power and designs in India, led him to observe that no danger was to be apprehended from the latter, provided a firm union was established between the Company, the Paishwa and Nizam, an observation which Nana would probably not have made unless encouraged by a knowledge of the Paishwa's sentiments, especially as Moonshy Gopal Row was present.

I have a firm persuasion that the influence of Nana will be exerted to obtain the Paishwa's consent for the recovery of his authority, and restoration of order and tranquillity by the aid of a British force, on the stipulation proposed by Your Lordship. But I doubt whether the system and spirit of this government will admit of permanent subsidiary engagements, or of accepting the perpetual arbitration of the Company in all disputes with the Nizam. These points I shall endeavour to ascertain at my first conference with Nana. In the meantime, I have no doubt of this state's faithful and liberal performance of its existing defensive engagements, if that Minister is allowed his due weight in the administration.

Rayjee Patel, the chief of the deputation from Sindia to the Bhyes, is returned to camp with the demands of those ladies in answer to the propositions tendered to them for reconciliation. One of their requisitions is, to be put in possession of the fort of Asseergur or that of Ahmednagar for their security. I am not informed of any other conditions, but whatever they may be, no resolution has yet been formed upon them. But the disaffected party is certainly not in a situation to expect great concessions.

Sindia is still occupied in raising money for the professed purpose of enabling him to march to Hindostan.

- **No. 149**—The Resident reports the probability of a final reconciliation being effected between Sindia and his ladies

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 23rd October 1798.

My Lord,

The contentions in Sindia's family and government begin to wear the appearance of amicable accommodation. The Paishwa and Nana Furnavees, as mediators, have framed conditions of agreement, to which Sindia has assented, and which are thought to be so reasonable and impartial, that little doubt is entertained of their being accepted by the other party. The European commanders of Sindia's troops have offered their guarantee for his faithful performance of the engagements to which he has consented, or which he may finally conclude with the insurgents.

Nana Furnavees returned to his residence in the city on the 21st. The intervention of the great Hindoo festival of the Dussara, and my expectation of a visit from Emrut Row which has been fixed and deferred on two successive days, have hitherto prevented my having any communication with the new Minister. Nor has he yet, I understand, formally entered upon the functions of his office.

I cannot discover that any negotiations are at this time carrying on between this Durbar and that of Surungputtun, nor is any further mention made of the expected Vakeel from Tippoo Sultaun.

No. 150—The progress of subsidiary negotiations and of the reconciliation of Sindia's ladies are again touched upon in this letter by the Resident.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 27th October 1798.

My Lord,

I was in expectation of being able to inform Your Lordship in this address of my negotiations on your proposed subsidiary engagements being renewed, and of their probable result, as I received a message two days ago from the Paishwa desiring to know when it would be agreeable to me to wait upon Nana Furnavees. I answered that I was ready to attend the Minister immediately, or at any time that the Paishwa would appoint. The only reply which has been made, is that I shall be informed of the Paishwa's pleasures in a day or two.

I sent Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien to congratulate Nana Furnavees on his return to the city, and to remind him of the importance of an early discussion of Your Lordship's propositions. He said that he was at present occupied in arranging a settlement of Jagheer for Emrut Row, but would be glad to see me the moment he was disengaged. He desired to know what stipulations Your Lordship required on the part of this government for the intended aid. But Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien answered that these would be better communicated by me at our interview.

The Paishwa's conduct from the first communication of Your Lordship's proposals to the present time, indicates an intention to keep the negotiations open, until he can exactly ascertain his own situation. But he is so fickle and inconstant that it is difficult to form any certain conclusion of his designs from his proceedings; and the vicissitudes of his measures are so rapid, that no information can keep pace with them. His character for inconstancy and duplicity is so notorious as to have destroyed all confidence in him, and to have nearly alienated the minds of all men from his person and interests.

I am well assured, that Nana Furnavees is persuaded of the important advantages held out to this state in Your Lordship's proposals. But I am doubtful of his influence with the Paishwa being yet sufficient to overcome his reluctance to an equitable arbitration of his claims on the Nizam, and

to restrain his intended encroachments on the possessions of that prince, which are regarded as a certain source of wealth and aggrandizement to this empire

The deputies of Dowlut Row have returned on their mission to the Bhyes, but have made little or no progress towards conciliation. The ladies require that Sirjajee Ghautky and the other persons who promoted the violence offered to them, shall be delivered into their custody. To this requisition Sindia will by no means consent, nor even to an expedient proposed by Nana, of removing those persons from his presence and councils, and providing for them at a distance. The insurgent party are also suspicious of the sincerity of the deputies and charge them with endeavouring to protract, instead of composing the dissensions in Sindia's family and government, and this charge coincides with the general opinion of their selfish views, which are promoted by the depression of their master's authority.

I have just received a note from Moonshy Gopal Row to acquaint me with the Paishwa's request that I will wait upon Nana Furnavees either tomorrow or the next day. I have submitted it to the Minister's convenience on which of those days to attend him. As I have no doubt of obtaining from Nana satisfactory information on the actual situation and prospects of this government in all its connexions and relations, I will not at present offer to Your Lordship any opinions which must be formed on a less competent knowledge of those subjects.

No. 151—Palmer describes his interview with Nana Fadnis, in which he regrets he could obtain no definite replies to the propositions put forth by the Governor General

FROM—COL PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 30th October 1798.

My Lord,

I waited upon Nana Furnavees yesterday evening. I found Moonshy Gopal Row attending him, and he was the only person who assisted at the conference, except Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien on my part.

I began the conversation by observing that near three months had elapsed since I had imparted to the Paishwa certain propositions from Your Lordship, calculated for the immediate restoration and support of his authority, and for the eventual interest and security of the three allied powers. That no conclusive answer had yet been given to the propositions, although I had repeatedly solicited it, and stated the dangers of delay.

I next explained to Nana the conditions on which Your Lordship was willing to supply the Paishwa with military aid for the immediate retrieval of his affairs, and to enter into subsidiary engagements with him for furnishing an additional permanent force, similar to those concluded with the Nizam.

I observed to Nana that the propositions held out to the Paishwa advantages certain and exclusive, while those proposed for the Company were in common with the other allies and contingent.

I then proceeded to state them. Your Lordship in desiring to become the arbitrator of the differences between this Court and that of Hyderabad had no other views than those of impartial and amicable adjustment, a desire to promote the security and augment the strength of both governments, and to maintain harmony among powers engaged in a defensive alliance.

Lastly, I represented to Nana, the obstacles and dangers to the Paishwa's authority, as well as to the great object of the triple alliance, from Sindia's remaining in his present position, and the risque to which the Mahratta possessions in Hindostan are exposed by the defection in his army and the menaced invasion of Zemaun Shah.

Nana Furnavees was exceedingly guarded and general in his answers and remarks. He probably had not authority to answer decidedly on the part of the Paishwa, and might be restrained from delivering his own sentiments by the presence of Gopal Row. On no point could I obtain any assurance from him but on that of the subsisting defensive engagements of this state, which, he said, it would faithfully fulfil. Every other proposition he referred to the Paishwa.

Nana admitted the direct and important advantages which the Paishwa might derive from the aid which Your Lordship had offered to supply, but said that previous to the communication of your offer, the Paishwa had adopted measures from which he expected the return of order and tranquillity in the state and which, he flattered himself, was nearly accomplished. If he should however be disappointed, he would no doubt resort to Your Lordship's assistance. Here Moonshy Gopal Row asked why should the Paishwa apply for the English troops before he wants them? To which I answered that when the Paishwa wants them, the application may be too late, and their immediate services will secure all the objects which appear to be yet doubtful.

The Minister evidently wished to avoid any discussion of Your Lordship's mediating the differences between the Paishwa and Nizam, but acknowledged that the proposal and your offer to enter into similar engagements as those concluded with His Highness were unequivocal proofs of your impartiality and of your sincere concern for the prosperity of both states.

Nana entirely concurred in my representations of the danger to the Paishwa and to the common cause, from the situation of Sindia and said that it had been for some time the principal object of his endeavours to remove him by conciliatory means, in which he had made considerable advances, and did not doubt of soon completely effecting

The Minister promised to make a circumstantial report of this conference at his first interview with the Paishwa, and to give me the earliest information of the result. He appeared to be indisposed and exhausted, and to desire that I should take leave. But as I was anxious to ascertain the truth of the frequent intelligence which arrives by the way of Madras of a regular intercourse, by Hircarrahs, between this Court and that of Surungputtun, I requested to be indulged with a few minutes longer attention, to which Nana having readily assented, I mentioned, the various reports which had prevailed on this subject and which could not fail to excite alarm and uneasiness in Your Lordship's mind under the recent aggressions and known designs of Tippoo. I therefore trusted that the Minister would give Your Lordship that satisfaction, respecting the truth and nature of such intercourse, which your relation to this government entitled you to demand, and which the interests of your own rendered it indispensable that you should obtain

Nana disclaimed all knowledge of communication between the two Courts whether by correspondence, agents, or messengers, but promised to enquire into it for my information. He must certainly have spoken under the reserve of official knowledge to which probably he was induced by the presence of Gopal Row. He enquired of me the cause of delay in Your Lordship's proposed letter from the allies to Tippoo, to which, I answered, that Your Lordship had not done me the honor to inform me of it, but I concluded that you wait to hear of your allies being in a state of preparation for hostilities if the answer should prove unsatisfactory.

I am much mortified and disappointed at my visit to the Minister having produced so little information on the actual state of affairs, no certain knowledge of either his own or the Paishwa's sentiments and designs. But Nana's silence and reserve may, I think, be imputed solely to his caution and distrust of Gopal Row, and hence I infer that his opinions and dispositions are favourable to Your Lordship's views, as he would have had no occasion to conceal them from the agent of Govind Kishen, if they had been adverse to your propositions.

I have sent to request of Nana that he will admit my agent to a private audience as soon as he can fix a time, when he may not be liable to the interruption of a third person. From such an interview I may expect a full and candid disclosure of every circumstance relative to the situation and views of this government as connected with that of Your Lordship.

But I am doubtful whether Nana has yet any material influence in the Paishwa's councils, nor will he shew any impatience to obtain it, as he is persuaded that his power will be best secured by the Paishwa's feeling the want of his advice and assistance.

Govind Kishen still maintains his credit with the Paishwa, which Nana will, perhaps, endeavour gradually to undermine, rather than attempt to overthrow it at once.

Dowlut Row's negotiations with his family and Sirdars have made but little progress. He seems to have committed his fate with the most implicit confidence to his ministers giving no sort of attention to his affairs, but devoting himself entirely to sensual pleasures.

No. 152—The Governor General communicates to the Peshwa the sincere pleasure he received from the latter in cordially supporting the principles of the alliance existing between the three states for putting down the aggressions of Tipu.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,
TO—THE PEISHWAH.

Fort William, written the 11th October 1798.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter (recapitulate contents of a letter received 20th September) and am rejoiced to find in the whole tenour of it, as well as of your proposed draft of a letter to Tippoo Sultaun, (which has been communicated to me by Colonel Palmer), so prompt and cordial a concurrence in the measures of precaution and defence which the late conduct of that prince has rendered necessary.

Such spirit of concord and happy understanding among great and allied states, affords the best security for the safety and prosperity of their respective dominions and for the happiness of their subjects. I trust that this security will always be enjoyed in an eminent degree by the three allied Sirkars, and that it will be strengthened by the daily increase of their mutual friendship.

When the proper time for addressing Tippoo Sultaun to the effect proposed by you and His Highness the Nizam shall arrive, I shall do myself the pleasure of communicating with you both in the most full and unreserved manner, with respect to the specific nature of the satisfaction to be required, for the late infraction of the treaty of Seringapatam. Until that period shall arrive it does not seem necessary to enter into any particular statement on this subject, further than to declare my entire approbation of the spirit of moderation and justice which you and His Highness the Nizam have manifested in your several proposals, and to

assure you, that my views entirely accord with those of the two allied Courts, that I entertain no schemes of aggrandizement or ambition and that I do not wish to require any other satisfaction for the aggression of Tippoo Sultaun than an effectual security against its repetition.

The disposition which your letter manifests, to remove every cause of difference subsisting between you and His Highness, and to maintain the relations of amity and concord between the two states, cannot but afford me sincere satisfaction, as tending to secure the blessings of general tranquillity, an object which is intimately connected with the preservation of the triple alliance.

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No. 153—The Resident in his letter to the Governor General reports the indisposition of Nana Fadnis, the unwillingness of the Peshwa to complete the negotiations for an alliance proposed by the Governor General and the removal of Govind Krishna Kale from the administration.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 3rd November 1798.

My Lord,

Nana Furnavees having been for four days past indisposed of a fever, has been unable to attend the Paishwa or to admit a visit from my agent by which I might have been informed of the Paishwa's sentiments on the conference which I had with the Minister, or with the disposition of the latter to promote the engagements proposed by Your Lordship

The Paishwa has been formally advised by the Nizam that all the stipulations of the new treaty of Hyderabad are now carried into effect, and I do not know a motive more likely to compel the Paishwa into a similar alliance than his jealousy of the superiority which the Nabob will acquire over him by the intimate connexion which now subsists between him and the Company I am, however, apprehensive that even this consideration will not be powerful enough to overcome the pride of being subjected to foreign influence or power.

The Paishwa treats Emrut Row with increased distrust and unkindness The latter seeing no prospect of obtaining a share in the administration requested to retire to his Jaghire to which the Paishwa assented, but now refuses, or delays to pass the sunnuds prepared for giving him possession of it.

Emrut Row's confidants foment his discontent, and endeavour to persuade him that he may redress himself by attaching to his interests the insurgents of Sindia's army, Kaushi Row Holkar, and Pursaram Bhow.

They even insinuate his right to the musnud in preference to Bajy Row, as the eldest son of Ragonaut Row, though by adoption only. I do not believe that Emrut Row is inclined to adopt such violent counsels. But there is no saying to what measures he may not be compelled by his distresses and the incurable suspicion of his brother.

Dowlut Row Sindia's officers are still in suspense. I understand it to be the intention of Nana Furnavees who is the mediator of his differences with his family and Sirdars, to secure his return to Hindostan by making that measure an indispensable condition of accommodation.

I am informed that Govind Kishan Kauli, finding his influence with the Paishwa decline and his counsel disregarded, has desired to retire from business, but the Paishwa has not acquiesced in his request.

Nana Furnavees appears to be gradually strengthening his interests by forming new and reviving old connexions. He has agreed to a reconciliation with Pursuram Bhow, who betrayed and supplanted him in the ministry when Chimna Appa was placed on the musnud.

I am assured on good authority that the intercourse which Govind Kishen had established between this Court and Surungputtun, has ceased (at least to any purpose of importance), since Nana Furnavees's return to the administration was resolved on.

No. 154—Palmer describes the internal jealousies and suspicions existing among the principal members of the Maratha State, the Peshwa, his brother Amritrao, his minister Nana, and Sindia, so that the proposed alliance was being postponed for one reason or another.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 6th November 1798.

My Lord,

Yesterday Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien having waited upon Nana Furnavees by his appointment, the Minister informed him that he had not been able to attend the Paishwa since his interview with me, but had made a detailed report of our conference through Narrow Punt Chuckerdev, one of his own confidants.

To some of Your Lordship's propositions for strengthening the alliance between the two states, the Paishwa had given an answer, and Nana expected his decision on the remainder in the course of two or three days, when he would communicate to me the final result.

Nana said, it would be proper to confer with Dowlut Row Sindia as a principal member of this state on Your Lordship's propositions, but in doing this, he should conceal from that chieftain the direct application which was intended to be made for the Company's troops, as Sindia would suspect himself to be the object of it. The Minister therefore proposed to assign as the Paishwa's motives for receiving a British force, the necessity of precautionary measures to deter Tippoo from his meditated designs against the allies or to repel them, if he should carry them into execution. It will also be prudent, Nana said, to conceal from Sindia the proposed stipulation for the expulsion of the French, as he has many of that nation in his service.

Nana does not expect that Sindia will offer any objections to the resolutions which the Paishwa may form and observed, that it was rather in compliance with usage than to take his advice, that the subject would be communicated to him.

The Paishwa replied to Nana's report of my representation on the correspondence between him and Tippoo, that he had written one letter to that prince and received an answer to it, both of which he would send for the Minister's perusal and the latter promised to inform me of their contents.

Meer Fukeer-ud-Dien endeavoured to learn Nana's sentiments on the proposed alliance, by enquiring his opinion of that into which the Nizam had recently entered with the Company. But to this enquiry Nana answered, that he must first examine the reciprocal engagements of the three allied powers in subsisting treaties.

Whatever motives Nana Furnavees may have for reserve, I have little doubt of his having deliberately considered and formed his opinion on every stipulation of Your Lordship's proposed treaty, and I think it may be inferred from the caution which he suggests to be observed towards Sindia respecting the employment of our troops for the restoration of the Paishwa's authority, and of order in the state, that he wishes to engage them for those services at least, but until his influence is established, he will be very cautious in recommending any measures which he may suppose, will excite the suspicions of the Paishwa.

The Minister promises his exertions for bringing this negotiation to a speedy conclusion, and that whatever may be the issue of it, he will endeavour to put this government in a condition to fulfil its defensive engagements.

There is but little appearance of the differences in Sindia's government being soon composed. The chief obstacles to an accommodation seem to be the requisitions of the Byes for the surrender of the late Ministers into their custody, and for the restoration of Juggoo Bapoo and Lacawa Dada to the Niabut of Hindostan. Sindia is becoming very impatient

at the delay and expresses his suspicions of its being promoted by the Paishwa, Emrut Row, and Nana Furnavees. It is not improbable that the Paishwa and Nana desire to conduct this dispute to the removal of Sindia from the Deccan, and to the diminution of his power. But Emrut Row is supposed to aim at his entire destruction.

No. 155—Long and anxious consultations on the propositions suggested by the Governor General are reported by the Resident from Poona, so that the Peshwa's ultimate resolution was likely to be shortly announced.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 10th November 1798.

My Lord,

The Hindoo festival of the Dewally and the Minister's indisposition have prevented my receiving any direct information from the Durbar since I had the honour to address Your Lordship last. But as both those impediments are now removed, and as I learn that long and anxious consultations have been held on the subject of Your Lordship's propositions, I hope to be in the course of a few days, informed of the Paishwa's ultimate resolution on them.

It is reported that Dowlut Row Sindia has so far acceded to the principal requisitions made by his family and Sirdars, that a little immaterial concession on their part is all that is wanting to reconciliation.

If this accommodation should be effected, I have no doubt of Sindia's proceeding immediately towards Hindostan as he is much disposed to this measure himself, and as to remove him is the first object of Nana Furnavees, who seems to have the entire controul of the negociation.

The Minister seems studiously to avoid any appearance of impatience for power. He has not attempted to displace Govind Kishen, nor to supersede his influence. By forbearance towards his enemies, the prudent management of parties, and a judicious application of his money, he will gradually bring over to his interests such persons as he thinks can be useful to him, and establish his authority on a broad and solid foundation.

I beg leave to assure Your Lordship that the difficulties and discouragement which I meet with in the course of my negotiations, will not make me remiss in my endeavours to promote the public service to the best of my judgment.

No. 156—The postponement of the Peshwa's final resolution on the proposed treaty of alliance is again reported by the Resident in this letter.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 13th November 1798

Since my last address, I have applied to Nana Furnavees to know the Paishwa's final resolution on the new engagements proposed to him by Your Lordship. But the Minister has desired two or three days' further delay, when he says he shall wish to see me or my agent.

I understand that the information which the Paishwa has received of the ratification of the treaty of Hyderabad, has convinced him of the necessity of coming to a speedy decision on the relative situation in which he is hereafter to stand towards the Company and the Nizam. And I think that his determination cannot be many days longer protracted.

A person employed in the negotiations for accommodating the disputes in Dowlut Row Sindia's government, assured me that the conditions are agreed upon by both parties, and that the only impediment to carrying them into execution and to Sindia's moving to the northward, is the want of twenty lacs of rupees for the immediate subsistence of his troops.

No. 157—Increasing tension between the Peshwa and Sindia disturbing the harmony and cordiality that subsisted between them is reported by the Resident to the Governor General. Serious trouble was apprehended from Sindia's forces getting out of control.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 16th November 1798.

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address Your Lordship on the 13th, affairs here have taken an unfavourable appearance to the continuation of that harmony and cordiality which has lately subsisted between the Paishwa and Sindia.

On the 14th Nana Furnavees having desired my agent to attend him, imparted to him a message received by the Paishwa from Sindia importing that his army was six months in arrears of pay, and he was totally unable to liquidate its demands without the Paishwa's assistance. The troops had become exceedingly clamorous and discontented, and unless they were soon satisfied, could not be held in subordination either to the Sircar or to

their officers. If the Paishwa or Nana would supply him with fifty lacks of rupees, he would immediately repair to Hindostan, but if this requisition should not be complied with, they should seriously reflect on what must be the consequence of the unrestrained outrages of the troops excited by despair.

This message and the menace insinuated with it, has given the Paishwa the greatest uneasiness and apprehension, and has induced him to take every precaution in his power for the protection of the city. Nana Furnavees did not express much alarm, but intimated some reliance on assurances which the European commanders in Sindia's army gave to him of protecting his person and authority. He also seemed inclined to comply with Sindia's requisition if those commanders would engage for his immediate departure to Hindostan, and wished to know whether I could influence them to such an engagement. But at any rate, he desired my advice how to act in this critical situation.

As this subject was unexpected, Meer Fucker-ud-Deen was neither instructed nor prepared for an answer or observation upon it, except that he knew, I had no intercourse with the European commanders in Sindia's army, who were all foreigners, and many of them French, nor my reliance on their characters could induce me to take the least concern in any of their public transactions.

As I had concluded that Nana's desire to see my Moonshy was for the purpose of communicating the Paishwa's resolutions or sentiments on the stipulations of the treaty proposed by Your Lordship, I had directed him to repeat all the arguments which I had so often urged, of immediate, important, and lasting advantages to the Paishwa in accepting the propositions, and the extreme danger of rejecting or delaying them, and also to renew the assurances given by Your Lordship to the Paishwa of your real objects in proposing to strengthen and improve your alliance with this state and with the Nizam.

Nana said that he had no direct information from the Paishwa on this subject. It had been submitted to Dowlut Row Sindia, who from day to day had deferred giving his opinion. But Nana enquired whether such a body of our troops as might be required for the immediate service of this state could be furnished from Bombay, and whether they were ready. On this enquiry, the Moonshy could not give positive information, but replied that it might be concluded a sufficient force was in a stage of preparation, since the tender of it had been so long made. Nana then observed, that if this offer should be accepted, the whole weight and responsibility of the measure would rest upon him. He must provide for the subsistence of the troops, and be answerable to the Paishwa for any consequences which might result from the application of their services, adding that the danger of such responsibility was enhanced by the versatility of Bajy Row's mind.

Nana Furnavees produced to Fukeer-ud-Deen copies of the correspondence between the Paishwa and Tippoo, as sent to him by the former. It consists in representations from the Sultaun of depredations committed in Bednore by the Rajah of Kaulapore and other dependants of this state, and a proposal to send two persons to reside at Poonah, for the management of his interests at the Paishwa's Durbar. The Paishwa's answers are contained in one letter, promising to redress any injury which the Sultaun may have sustained by persons under the authority of this government and to prevent future aggression, and consenting to Tippoo's request of sending a deputation to this Court. The Paishwa assures Nana that this is all the correspondence which has passed between him and the Sultaun, and is surprized that Nana should want it for my information as he had directed Govind Kishen to communicate it to me at its commencement.

Govind Kishen could have no motive for concealing from me a correspondence so inoffensive except that which seems to have an unceasing operation on his mind, of widening the distance of intercourse between the Durbar and the Residency.

I have informed Nana Furnavees that as he has desired my advice and opinion on his present situation and the conduct which he should adopt, Meer Fukeer-ud-Deen will communicate them whenever he may desire to see him. And I have instructed my agent to represent to the Minister in the most forcible and impressive manner for the information of the Paishwa, that the safety of the state and his personal security can only be secured by a force capable of opposing the power of Sindia, and restraining the licentiousness of his army, and that a moment should not be lost in applying for that aid which Your Lordship has offered to supply, and in entering into the engagements proposed for the permanent security of his government against all attempts to disturb it, foreign or domestic.

The fatal experience which Nana Furnavees has had of Sindia's violence and perfidy, cannot but convince him of the absolute necessity of having recourse to Your Lordship's assistance as the only certain means of averting the dangers to which he, as well as the state, is exposed by the ascendancy and situation of that chief, and I have no doubt of his earnestly recommending the measure to the Paishwa. But what weight his advice may have in opposition to that of Govind Kishen and others who endeavour to persuade Bajy Row to rely on his own resources, I cannot tell. It is however, probable that the Paishwa's determination will be more influenced by his fears, than by the advice and opinion of any person whatever.

Aba Selooker, Soubahdar of the Paishwa's portion of Guzerat, having been treated with indignity by Sindia for non-payment of money for which he stood engaged, has absconded, and as he is supposed to be concealed in the palace, the circumstance is additional cause of misunderstanding between the Paishwa and Sindia.

No agreement is yet concluded between Dowlut Row Sindia and the disaffected party ; but Nana Furnavees says that the differences which remain to be adjusted are not considerable, and that he is endeavouring to compromise them. It is not, however, probable that in the present state of apprehension from Dowlut Row, either the Paishwa or Nana will seriously labour to relieve him from his embarrassment.

P.S.—Since closing my letter Nana Furnavees has sent to desire that Meer Fukeer-ud-Deen may attend him tomorrow morning.

No. 158—The Resident reports Nana's opinion about the absolute necessity for the Maratha Raj to entertain British troops to restore their affairs, but that Sindia and Bajirao were delaying the measure.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17th November 1798.

My Lord,

Nana Furnavees having desired to see my Moonshy yesterday evening instead of this evening as he first appointed, the delay in the arrival of the Bombay Post gives me the opportunity of informing Your Lordship, that the Minister entirely concurs in my opinion of the absolute necessity of applying for the aid of the Company's troops to restore the affairs of this Government and Empire.

I imagine that Nana has impressed the same conviction on the mind of the Paishwa, as he said that the latter only waited to know Sindia's sentiments on the subject to come to a determination.

On this intimation my agent observed that it was not probable Sindia would approve of a measure which he must foresee, would controul his power here ; and although his apprehension of giving just cause of offence to Your Lordship might deter him from an avowed opposition to it, he would endeavour to defeat it by delaying his answer. To which Nana replied that Sindia would not be allowed to procrastinate.

I hope that my next address will convey to Your Lordship decided information on this important negotiation, but I apprehend much difficulty in subduing the Paishwa's reluctance to the final adjustment of his claims on the Nizam by arbitration, as he seems to consider His Highness's dominions as the only practicable object of the system of lucrative depredation on which this empire was founded, and by which it has hitherto been supported and aggrandized.

No. 159—The unwillingness of Bajirao to accept British arbitration in disputes with the Nizam, was, says Palmer, the chief cause of delay in completing the proposed negotiations

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 20th November 1798.

My Lord,

The affairs of this government remain in the same state of uncertainty as by my last advices. The city is still guarded with the greatest vigilance. The inhabitants continue under great alarm, and those who have considerable property are preparing for flight. No violence, however, has been attempted, and the Paishwa and Sindia still maintain friendly appearances, negotiating by the agency of Nana Furnavees the means of assisting Sindia to satisfy the demands of his troops and to proceed to Hindostan.

On the 17th the Minister again desired the attendance of Meer Fukeer-ud-Deen, who waited upon him immediately and found Moonshy Gopal Row with him. Nana said, that his principal reason for desiring to see him was to enquire whether I was informed, or could conjecture, Your Lordship's motives for delaying your proposed letter to Tippoo. Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien answered, that he believed Your Lordship had not yet informed me on this subject, but that my opinion of the cause of delay was Your Lordship's waiting to be advised of your allies being in such a state of preparation as would give effect to your requisitions of suitable satisfaction and security for Tippoo's infraction of treaty. Nana replied, that this state wished to know what force Your Lordship would expect it to furnish, and on what plan and principles the war was to be conducted by the allies to a final conclusion by peace or otherwise.

Meer Fukeer-ud-Deen satisfied the Minister in these enquiries in the best manner he could, by saying it was most probable Your Lordship would expect the quota of troops from this state should be equal to that furnished in the late war against Tippoo, that the plan of operations must depend upon circumstances, but the principles by which the mutual object and interests of the allies were to be regulated would, he supposed, be substantially the same as those adopted in the late confederacy.

On this Nana observed, that as collecting the force of the empire would be attended with increased expense, his view in desiring Your Lordship's intentions was to make as early provision for it as your plan might require, or to ascertain whether it would be required at all.

As I had directed my agent, on Nana's sending for him, to repeat my request to know the Paishwa's final determination on Your Lordship's propositions, Gopal Row took occasion to remark that Your Lordship in your last letter to the Paishwa had expressed your entire satisfaction at his declaration in his letter to you of his friendly sentiments towards the

Nizam. Understanding the remarks to insinuate that Your Lordship would not insist upon the stipulation of adjusting the differences of the two Courts by your arbitration, Meer Fukeer-ud-Deen observed that Your Lordship's expression implied no more than your satisfaction at learning the Paishwa's disposition to be favourable to the object which you wished to promote, of secure and lasting peace and amity between the two states by your interposition.

I am informed that it has been resolved in the Paishwa's council, to propose a compromise of this stipulation by his engaging to refrain from all hostility against the Nizam, and from all claims whatever upon him until the dispute with Tippoo is finally terminated either by peace or his total subjection. But as such a compromise appears to me incompatible with Your Lordship's ultimate views in desiring to maintain permanent peace and concord between the two states, I should deem it wholly inadmissible, though the intention to propose it may deserve your notice.

Nana Furnavees is still endeavouring to remove Sindia by means of the differences in his family and government and of his pecuniary distresses, but without any great expectation of success. Sindia has, indeed, acceded to all Nana's propositions to this effect, but is yet inflexible on the requisition of the Bhyes to surrender Serjajee Ghautky and other persons obnoxious to them into their custody; and if this obstacle were removed, Nana is still doubtful of Sindia's faithful performance of his engagements.

The information stated to Your Lordship in Captain Kirkpatrick's dispatch of the 10th instant, of the communication made by Sheshaudry Pundit of his conversation with Emrut Row, corresponds substantially with that which I had the honour to give to Your Lordship in my address of the 3rd instant, respecting the designs of the Row, but which he has neither character nor credit to execute, and the Paishwa is sufficiently distrustful of him to render unnecessary a disclosure attended with a breach of confidence, which would probably preclude the Nizam from further useful information.

No. 160—The Resident reports his having received some requisitions of the Nizam upon the Peshwa presented through the Hyderabad agent for satisfaction. The Resident replied that he was not authorised to interfere in the internal disputes between the Nizam and the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 24th November 1798.

My Lord,

Since my last address, on the 20th instant, the apprehensions entertained by the Paishwa of the designs of Sindia have considerably subsided, and a free intercourse is renewed between the city and camp

This return of confidence has been produced as I understand, by mutual assurances, the Paishwa engaging to assist in extricating Sindia from his present difficulties, and the latter promising to return to Hindostan as soon as this is effected Both rely on Nana Furnavees for the ability to fulfil their engagements, and he trusts to a judicious management of the dissensions in Sindia's family and government for compelling that chieftain to observe his part of the conditions. But the event depends upon such a diversity of character and interests that no person will predict what it will be.

It is, perhaps, partly owing to this uncertainty that the Minister is not yet able to inform me of the Paishwa's determination on Your Lordship's proposals, although the delay of Sindia's opinion is still the pretext

I received a visit yesterday from Anund Row, one of the Nizam's Vakeels at this Court, Sheshaudry Pundit his colleague and principal being indisposed The chief purport of this visit was of a very extraordinary nature, and for which he said, he had the commands of Azim-ul-Omrah It was to propose that I should prefer to the Paishwa on the part of the Nizam a string of requisitions, which Anund Row brought in writing and read to me The first of these was that I should represent to the Paishwa the depredations lately committed in the Nizam's territories by Pursaram Bhow, next to require of the Paishwa that he should fulfill his engagements to the Nizam in the late treaty between them, and that I should reveal to the Paishwa the discourse which Emrut Row held with Sheshaudry Pundit I expressed much surprise at such an application from Azim-ul-Omrah to me, as he could not be ignorant that I had no right or pretence whatever to interfere in the concerns of the two states unless by mutual agreement, that he knew such agreement was a point resisted by this Court, and knew that I was endeavouring to overcome the Paishwa's objections In such a state of the subject, I asked how it could escape that minister's penetration, that my interference would excite the Paishwa's suspicion of partiality in our Government towards the Nabob and increase his reluctance to our mediating between them

Anund Row endeavoured to remove my objection to interfering for want of authority, by construing the 8th article of the treaty of Hyderabad into an obligation on the Company to enforce justice from the Paishwa to the Nizam if the former should reject arbitration, and said, it was so understood by the Courts both of Poona and Hyderabad

As I was apprehensive that the Court of Hyderabad encouraged by their own construction of this engagement, might be tempted to precipitate a dispute with this government, I endeavoured to convince Anund Row of his misconception of the nature of the interposition

which Your Lordship had engaged to use, which he would on reference to the article find to be expressly mediatory.

He then desired me, as I did not think myself authorised to interfere directly with the Durbar in the Nizam's concerns, to advise him how he should proceed respecting the subjects which he had stated to me. I told him that there could be no objection to his demanding redress for the depredations committed by the Paishwa's troops in His Highness' dominions; that it was perhaps advisable to defer any discussion on the Paishwa's obligations in the late treaty concluded here, until his determination on Your Lordship's proposal for mediating the differences between the two states could be known, since that treaty had never been formally ratified, nor any one stipulation of it completely executed. I therefore apprehended, that disputes would arise which were not likely to be amicably adjusted but by Your Lordship's impartial arbitration. But if he was instructed to bring the matter forward, it might be expedient first to confer with Nana Furnavees upon it.

As to his revealing to the Paishwa the conversation which passed between Emrut Row and Sheshaudry Pundit, I thought it would be considered as a breach of trust and obstruct future confidential communication without its being of any service to the Paishwa, who was known already to suspect Emrut Row of designs which he had not the power to execute, and which if he had, the Paishwa can easily prevent, as the Row with all his family now resides in the palace. And in fact the Paishwa may be supposed to be already informed of this conversation, since Sheshaudry Pundit has imparted it to Nana Furnavees.

Anund Row answered my doubts of the treaty having been considered by either as in force by saying that the troops required by the Paishwa had advanced to his frontier, where they still remain by his desire, and put to me the stranger question whether they should be continued there, or remanded to Hyderabad. To which I answered, that this enquiry should be made of the Paishwa if it was expected that he should pay for them.

The Vakeel in justification of his requiring of me so invidious an act as that of informing the Paishwa of the danger of Emrut Row communicated to Sheshaudry Pundit, asserted that the Minister had advised him of Captain Kirkpatrick's having written to me to that effect.

Suspecting from the general tenor of his discourse an intention or wish in his Court to urge a premature and perhaps hostile issue to its differences with this, and to obtain from me some act or expression which might sanction or excuse his proceedings in that view, I told him, that what I had offered in the way of advice, was from a desire to see peace and amity maintained between the two states, as long as it could be preserved with a due regard to mutual justice, but that I wished to decline

the discussion of any subject of dispute between them, unless recommended to me directly by the Company's Resident at Hyderabad

I have again urged Nana Furnavees to procure the Paishwa's decision on the new engagements proposed to him by Your Lordship. I am however afraid that this is not to be expected until it can be ascertained whether the dissensions and distresses of Sindia's Government will terminate in his submission to or a rupture with the Paishwa.

No. 161—The Governor General communicates to the Peshwa the British victory at Aboukir over the French fleet.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE PESHWA.

Fort William, 4th November 1798

You have doubtless received information of another excess of that unjustifiable ambition and insatiable rapacity which have so long marked the conduct of the French nation. They have invaded Egypt, a country from which they were in no danger of molestation and from whose Government they could not even pretend to have received the slightest provocation. They have committed this act of violence in contempt of the treaties subsisting between France and the Porte, and without any regard to the acknowledged authority of the Grand Seignior so long established in Egypt. Nothing can more expose their total disregard of every principle of public faith and honour than this unprovoked and unjustifiable aggression, and it will no doubt afford satisfaction to every friend to justice and good faith, and particularly to every friend to the British nation to hear, that by the success of His Majesty's arms the French have already suffered for their injustice and temerity. Certain intelligence has just been received that thirteen sails of the line which had been employed in the expedition against Egypt, mounting 1,024 guns carrying about 10,000 men being at anchor in the port of Beker, near Rosetta at the mouth of the Nile, were attacked by an equal number of His Britannick Majesty's fleet, an engagement took place which terminated in the capture of 9 ships of the French line, two more were blown up, one of them 118 guns, the French Admiral and only two made their escape from the valor and skill of the British Admiral. All communication being thus cut off between Egypt and Europe, the troops who have landed in Egypt must in all probability perish either by famine or the sword.

This very signal victory is to be ascribed to the justice of the British cause and to the aid of Divine Providence favoring the gallantry of our forces, and punishing the injustice and impiety of our adversary. On the same assistance I rely with confidence for a continuation of similar successes and for the final triumph of His Majesty's arms over a nation who have shown themselves the general enemy of mankind.

Confident from the union and attachment subsisting between us that this intelligence will afford you sincere satisfaction, I could not deny myself the pleasure of communicating it.

To Dowlut Row Sindia,
Bhow Bukshy, and
Cashee Rhow Holkar.

No. 162—The Resident discusses the possibility of the Peshwa sending his contingent to support the British attack on Tipu.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 30th November 1798.

(Early portion torn out.)

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the delay in the Paishwa's determination on Your Lordship's propositions for a subsidiary force from the Company by the suspense in which the negotiations for a final settlement with Sindia and his return to Hindostan still continue. He said, that both the Paishwa and himself being exceedingly anxious to preserve union with so powerful a member of the empire as Sindia, and that he had little or no doubt of happily effecting it in the course of a few days.

Without being quite so sanguine of the Minister's success in his object as he appears to be himself, I am of opinion that either event will promote the ability of this state to co-operate in the common cause.

Should Sindia refuse to remove, the Paishwa's only resource for the preservation of his authority and even for the safety of his person, is in the aid with which Your Lordship has offered to supply him. If Sindia peaceably retires to Hindostan, the Paishwa's authority and the influence of his minister will be sufficient to bring the feudatory chieftains into the field.

Nana Furnavees gave no intimation of the person to be selected for the command of the Paishwa's forces. I am apprehensive the Paishwa will never so far suppress his jealousy of Emrut Row as to entrust him with the charge of a very considerable force, though to be employed at a distance and for a temporary purpose, nor was Nana, I believe, quite confident enough . . . Row to consent to his appointment. But as Emrut Row has lately been at the head of a large body of the Paishwa's troops, no bad consequence can attend my suggesting the course,—a supposition that the choice will fall on (mutilated)

The only competitors to Emrut Row for this command are Baba Furkia, son of Hurry Punt Furkia, who commanded the Paishwa's troops in the late Mysore war, and Pursaram Bhow, who commanded a division of them, and in conjunction with regiments from Bombay, he reduced the fortress of Dharwar and performed other important services. The Bhow is an active and experienced officer, bearing a strong hatred against the Sultaun. Baba Furkia has had little or no military experience, but the Paishwa having married in his family, and himself being an adherent of Nana Furnavees, it is probable that he will be preferred to Pursaram Bhow, if Emrut Row should not be intended for the command.

Gobind Kishen is in a bad state of health and has desired to retire, there is no reason to apprehend that he, or any person dependent on him, will be placed at head of the Paishwa's troops. But should such an intention appear, I will oppose it to the utmost of my power.

As the enquiries which Your Lordship has directed the Resident at Hyderabad to make, respecting the numbers, period of march and junction, and the supply of provision of the Nazim's contingent, apply to that of the Paishwa, I shall endeavour to ascertain such of these points as yet remain to be answered at my first interview with the Minister.

Dowlut Row Sindia has signed the conditions of reconciliation with his parents and disaffected Sirdars, to which his principal European commanders are guarantees, and one of them is appointed to conduct the ladies to camp.

Sindia professes his intention to march towards Hindostan on receiving the first kist of the sum stipulated to be paid to him by the Paishwa, but I am much afraid that this measure will be obstructed by those persons to whom he has resigned the uncontrolled direction of his affairs, and who find their own interests in detaining him in the Deccan. It appears to me that on this event depends the probable event of a final and speedy concord, or of a renewal of the distractions which have so long agitated the Mahratta Empire.

No. 163—The Resident reports Nana Fadnis's concurrence in the execution of the terms of the defensive alliance formed against Tipu.

FROM—¹COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 3rd December 1798.

My Lord,

The Minister having been for some days past unremittingly engaged in the adjustment of Sindia's affairs, replied to my message desiring to wait upon him, of which I had the honour to inform Your Lordship in my last, that he wished me to defer my visit for a few days, when he expected to have more leisure, and to be prepared to speak with precision on such subjects as he supposed I might wish to introduce. In the meantime my agent might attend him for the purpose of making any new communication.

Meer Fukeer-ud-Deen attended him by appointment on the 1st instant with the copy of Your Lordship's letter to Tippoo and found Moonshy Gopal Row in waiting.

Nana Furnavees gave his approbation to the terms of the letter and admitted it to be exactly conformable to the Paishwa's sentiments of the mode to be pursued in requiring satisfaction for the aggression of Tippoo. The Minister added, that as soon as he should be able to disengage himself from Sindia's people, he would wait upon the Paishwa to communicate the letter, and to know whether he wished personally to confer with me upon it.

My agent then represented to Nana according to my instructions that in this advanced stage of the requisition of the allies, it was necessary, both for giving weight to the proposed negotiations and for being prepared against the failure of them, that the troops to be furnished by this State should be immediately assembled and marched to the frontiers.

The Minister replied, that he was so sensible of this necessity and so desirous to give Your Lordship a proof of the sincere disposition of this government to fulfil its engagements in the triple alliance, that to accelerate the orders which he had issued, mentioned in my last address, he had appointed an (officer) to the charge of collecting and commanding the troops of all the Jagheerdars and Pahgas, who would immediately repair to a place of general rendezvous and commence march to the frontier, as soon as the whole would be assembled.

The name of the officer appointed to this charge is Mahdorow Ramchunder.* I am totally unacquainted with him, but am told that he bears a very good character, and that Nana Furnavees has great confidence in him.

* Son of Ramchandra Ganesh Kanade.

I had not directed my agent to make a suggestion respecting the person to be selected for the command of the Paishwa's forces, but the minister of himself said, that it was not yet determined whether Mahdorow or another officer would be the superior commander in the field.

It is difficult to assign a period when it may be expected that the whole of the Paishwa's contingent will be on the frontier. But from the want of authority in the Government, and the delays incident to this mode of collecting troops, I think that at least two months may be allowed for the complete execution of the measure, and this too on a supposition that it receives no interruption from the situation or conduct of Sindia, which seem to shackle and impede every operation of the state.

Unless the internal disorders of this Government should be unfortunately renewed and wholly obstruct its co-operation in the common cause, it can easily supply the number of cavalry which Your Lordship judges will be sufficient. But it may be advisable to hold out the expectation of a larger force as it is the invariable practice of this people to (reduce) a considerable portion of any specified number.

I think Your Lordship may (place his entire) reliance on the Minister's exerting whatever power or influence he may possess, in supporting (or improving) the general connexion between the (Company) and the Mahratta Empire, and in discharging (with good) faith and energy the obligation of the Paishwa in the defensive alliance in particular, as it was formed under his auspices, and as he will be sensible how much his terest (and duty) are connected with the due execution.

Sindia has proclaimed his intention of marching to the North on the expiration of twenty days, and his agents are busy in the purchase of draft and carriage cattle. But his deputation for concluding the accommodation with his family and their adherents, has not yet set out for their camp, though their departure is hourly expected.

No. 164—The Resident reports to the Governor General the growing acrimony between the Paishwa and Sindia. the former, he writes, has called in military aid from the Nizam. He also reports that no settlement has been effected between Sindia and his ladies.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th December 1798

My Lord,

I learn from Anund Row, one of the Nizam's Vakeels at this Court, that His Highness has recalled the troops which have been so long stationed at Parenda, for the assistance of the Paishwa. Azim-ul-Omra has directed

the Vakeels to inform the Paishwa of this measure, but they have yet communicated it only to Nana Furnavees, who expressed a wish that the troops might not be removed.

Anund Row having desired my advice in consequence of this opposition from Nana Furnavees, I asked him whether he has discretional authority to detain the troops. He said that he had not. Upon which I observed, that in all probability the order had already been carried into execution, and I saw nothing to be done but to advise Azim-ul-Omra of Nana's sentiments. But supposing the troops to be still on the frontier, I could not recommend his detaining them, as the Minister must have weighed the advantages which he proposed to His Highness's service from this measure against the risque of forfeiting those to be acquired by the treaty with the Paishwa.

It was this last consideration which Anund Row made the pretext for desiring my opinion on a case in which he seems to have no choice of conduct. But admitting this to have been his real motive, I thought it by no means prudent or justifiable on me to hazard an opinion which might countenance the Vakeels in suspending a peremptory order of their Master.

Nana Furnavees informed the Vakeels at their interview with him on this occasion, that Sindia had signified to him an intention to make on his route to Hindostan, excursions in the Nana's dominions for the purpose of enforcing the recovery of a balance of 35 lacs of rupees which he claimed from His Highness as due by treaty. Nana Fadnis has endeavoured to dissuade Sindia from this design after assurances of an amicable adjustment.

Notwithstanding the favourable appearances stated in my last letter of an approaching reconciliation between Sindia and his family and their adherents, no further advances have been made towards its conclusion since his signing the conditions required by the insurgents, nor can I learn what impedes it. Nana Furnavees is engaged almost incessantly in discussion with the agents of both parties. And for the result of these conferences seem to be suspended every other interest of the state and the determination of its future policy.

It is only on this supposition that I can account for the delay in the Paishwa's decisions on Your Lordship's proposals, after the conviction which the Minister had felt of the necessity of having recourse to the means held out by you for relieving the Paishwa and the state from the dangers which threatened them from the power and principles of Sindia. But this expedient both the Paishwa and his Minister wish to defer as long as they think the smallest hope remains of avoiding an open rupture. I have twice since my last address applied for an interview with Nana or permission for my agent to attend him, but he still desires a few days delay.

From the pressing pecuniary necessities of Sindia, and the determination of the Paishwa and Nana not to supply him with money until he marches, it might be supposed that affairs must soon take a decided turn. But the Mahrattas are so skilful in shifts, evasions, and delays and it seems to be the interest of so many persons employed in these disputes to practice those arts that there is no pronouncing how long a settlement may be protracted.

Nana Furnavees has invited Parashram Bhow to Poona for the purpose of giving him the chief command of the force to be employed against Tippoo I shall duly inform Your Lordship of the progress made in assembling the Peshwa's contingent.

In obedience to Your Lordship's commands of the 14th ultimo, I shall at my first visit with the Minister, endeavour to obtain permission for establishing regular dawk stations between this place and Bombay for daily dispatch But as this is a point which after years of solicitation has been hitherto unattainable, I have in the mean time increased the number of cossids, so as to accelerate the correspondence considerably, whether by express or periodically.

I just now learn that the discontented party of Sindia's family and their adherents have removed to a greater distance, and on the road to Hindostan, in consequence of his hesitating (as he has engaged) to remove certain persons who are obnoxious to them They probably expect by this movement to intimidate him into an immediate performance of this stipulation.

No. 165—That Bajirao was delaying to reply to the Governor General's requisition in the matter of an expedition against Tipu and that the irresolute conduct of Doulatrao Sindia was causing trouble, are the topics reported by the Resident to the Governor General in this letter.

FROM—COL PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 10th December 1798

Nana Furnavees having a return of fever and ague, which I was apprehensive would for some days prevent his receiving a visit from me, I sent a message to request of him, that if the state of his health would possibly admit of it, he would give an hour's audience to my agent. With this request the Minister immediately complied, desiring that Meer Fukeer-u-Dien might attend him in the evening of the same day, the 8th.

I instructed my agent to state to Nana the exceeding disadvantage which it is causing to Your Lordship, in forming your plans for an arduous war to remain in suspense of the Paishwa's resolution on the important engagements which you had proposed to him for securing his own authority, and thereby strengthening the common cause, and more particularly to be left in uncertainty respecting the intention or ability of this state to supply its contingent to the triple alliance. That immediate and certain information on these great objects was now become urgent in point of time, as late intelligence from Syrrungputtum indicated a firm determination in Tippoo to adhere to his late hostile engagements with the French against the Company and its allies at all hazards. To satisfy the Minister of this determination of Tippoo, my agent related the heads of various intelligence transmitted to the Government of Madras by Major Doveton, Captain McCleod, and others between the 10th and 15th November. Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien concluded this head of the representation by reminding the Minister that this state having entered into its subsisting defensive engagements and having maintained and improved its old connections with the Company under his authority and influence, Your Lordship would naturally rely on the regard which he must have to his own reputation and his attachment to the welfare of both states, impelled by these acts of alliance and friendship for the best exertions of his power and influence to give them complete effect, or for a timely and candid declaration of his ability to discharge the obligations of the treaty.

The Minister replied, that it gave him great concern there should be any necessity for making these representations. He was sensible of the disadvantages and even the dangers of delay. That he hoped no share of it would be imputed to him. He had been prevented by indisposition, and still more by the pressure of Sindia's affairs, which it is of the last importance to adjust, from attending the Paishwa, in order to urge his decision by personal conference. And Bajy Row is of himself so irresolute and improvident, that he will never decide but from the impulse of immediate suffering or the apprehension of danger being near and inevitable, impressed upon him by the arguments of others.

He said that he had no doubt of the proceedings and designs reported of Tippoo, and that this Government was preparing to take its share in opposing them. He desired Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien to tell me, that, as soon as he should be able to go abroad, he would wait upon the Paishwa purposely to discuss the propositions so long submitted to him, and to obtain an interview for me to receive his final decision. Adding, that I might assure Your Lordship that your reliance on his zeal and attachment for the mutual prosperity of the Company and the Mahratta Empire, is not misplaced, that he will give every proof in his power of these sentiments, but desires, it may be recollected, how different his situation is now

from that in which he formerly exercised the administration of this Government. At present he can only be answerable for his own intentions.

With respect to the ability of this state to fulfil its defensive engagements under existing circumstances, he could not yet speak with precision, the experiment is in making, and no means within his reach shall be omitted, which can render it successful. He would also, he said, give me the earliest information of the progress made in collecting the feudatory force of the Empire, its amount and time of being in motion.

A copy of Your Lordship's letter to Tippoo has been presented to the Paishwa through the Minister, but no answer returned or observation yet made upon it.

I directed Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien to mention to the Minister Your Lordship's desire of expediting the correspondence between the several settlements of the Company's Government at this critical juncture, and to propose for that purpose the placing Hirkarrahs at equal stages on the road between this place and Bombay, and to explain the benefit which this Government also derive from this regulation. Nana promised to recommend it to the Paishwa immediately.

Gunput Row, the agent of Col. Collins at Sindia's Durbar, came to me on the evening of the 8th to inform me that Sindia had sent for him on that day to his private habitation, where he found only Baboo Row Angria and Kistnah Chitnaves in attendance. Sindia desired him to retire with these two persons to a distant part of the apartment; they would make some secret and important communications to him for my information and advice.

These communications, though imparted to Gunput Row with great affectation of solemnity and under an oath of secrecy, were no more than that Sindia and his Ministers were anxiously desirous of proceeding immediately to Hindostan, but were obstructed by the intrigues of the Paishwa and Emrut Row to protract the dissensions in his family and government. That he requested of me to solicit the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees, but without the mention of his privacy, to bring the disputes to an immediate accommodation, and to know whether it was my opinion that he should proceed, if they could not be adjusted.

Without making any observation on the truth of these Minister's assertions or the sincerity of their professions, the first of which is positively contradicted by those of the Paishwa and Nana, and the latter is universally doubted, I desired Gunput Row to assure Dowlut Row of my earnest wish to promote the harmony of his Government, to say that I understood it to be an object of the first consideration with both the Paishwa and Nana to expedite his return to Hindostan, that I had already stated to them the great importance of this measure to the preservation of the Mahratta

dominion in that quarter, and could have no hesitation in repeating this opinion. That Sindia and his Ministers were the best judges of his interests, but as far as I understood them, the mischiefs to be apprehended from leaving the discontents of his family and their adherents unsettled in the Deccan, could not be brought into any sort of competition with the security of his extensive and valuable possessions to the northward.

I confess that I cannot perceive the drift of these communications, unless it be to colour some design entertained against the Paishwa, or to serve as a pretext for remaining at Poona. It is so obviously the interest of the Paishwa and his Minister to remove Sindia, that they may be supposed to be seriously endeavouring to effect it, and Sindia and his Ministers are too well informed of the concern which Your Lordship takes in his repairing to the defence of his northern dominions, to require my advice on this head.

The real causes of delay in the final adjustment of Sindia's affairs according to the best information which I can obtain, are his refusing or evading the execution of his stipulation to remove Sirjajee Ghautky and other persons obnoxious to the Bhyes, as mentioned in my last address, Nana Furnavees requiring banker's security for the repayment of the money to be advanced on Sindia's engaging to march, in case he does not fulfil that engagement.

This last requisition may, I think, be considered as the test of Sindia's sincerity. If he refuses or evades the security required, or to march on receiving the money, it may be concluded, that he never will leave the Deccan unless compelled by force.

No. 166—The Resident proposes to administer a strong warning to Sindia against causing trouble at Poona for the Peshwa's Government.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th December 1798.

I fear that we are on the eve of a revolution here. Last night, after I had sent my letter to Your Lordship of yesterday to the Dawk, Nana Furnavees sent for Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien, and desired him to inform me that Sindia had suddenly retracted his agreement to receive by instalment the money which the Paishwa was to pay him on condition of his repairing to Hindostan, and insisted upon receiving the whole sum in one payment before he moved.

Sindia, in excuse for this infraction of engagement, asserts that he has been compelled to it by the clamours of his officers and troops, which cannot be otherwise appeased, and whose violence he is unable to restrain.

It is, indeed, generally believed that Sindia has been instigated to this unjustifiable demand by the younger Filose, a man whose avarice is insatiable and who is capable, either as author or minister, of every atrocity to gratify it. While this young man by his power and influence at the head of a large force is attempting to subvert a government in alliance with the Company, his father driven hence, in consequence of his treachery to Nana, is living under its protection at Bombay.

Nana Furnavees considers this faithless proceeding as a prelude to the worst designs against the Paishwa or himself or both, but knows not how to avert them, for it is now evident that whether he complies with the requisition or not, that Sindia and his army will never remove from Poona, until they have exhausted every source of rapine and extortion.

As one consequence of Sindia's persisting in this demand must be to disqualify the Mahrattah State for performing its defensive engagements to the Company, I think it my indispensable duty to remonstrate with him against a conduct so injurious to our interests and dangerous to our security, and to state to him the impressions which it cannot fail to make on Your Lordship's mind, of his inimical disposition towards your Government and the British nation.

No. 167—The Resident further explains the situation at Poona, the Sindia delaying to march away, and the Peshwa apparently in collusion with him.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 14th December 1798.

The appearance of another revolution in this state of which I informed Your Lordship in my address of the 11th instant, has for the present subsided. On the expostulation of Nana Furnavees, Sindia has receded from the requisition which caused alarm, and conformed to his original agreement, declaring his determination to proceed to Hindostan on receiving the first kist of the sum to be paid to him on that condition.

I am very apprehensive that however well disposed Sindia may be to act with good faith in this instance, his intentions will be frustrated by the avidity of those persons to whose guidance he has entirely submitted

his conduct, and who seem determined to remain at Poona to the last moment that fraud or violence can be productive of gain. Yet in the probability that a repetition of Your Lordship's sentiments on the consequences of his continuing in this quarter may have some weight with his ministers, I sent for Gunput Row and directed him to acquaint Sindia that I wished to confer with him on the present state of affairs, both in the Deccan and Hindostan. And I instructed the agent in case Sindia should not appoint an early day for my visit, to represent the increasing danger of delay as well to the interests of Sindia himself, as to the allies by the movements and designs of Zemaun Shah and Tippoo.

Sindia having expressed no desire to see me, Gunput Roy proceeded as I had directed him, to state in the strongest light, the ruinous effects which the approach of Zemaun Shah would produce on his affairs in Hindostan, and the absolute necessity of his marching immediately with his whole force if he wished to avert them. Gunput Roy after this exposition, reminded Sindia of Your Lordship's letter to him, stated the urgency in point of time and circumstances of the objects recommended in it, and informed him of the advanced progress of Your Lordship's and the Nizam's preparations, while those of the Paishwa were scarcely begun, and could not proceed with vigour so long as he was embarrassed by the presence of Sindia and the disputes in his Government.

Dowlut Row answered these representations with strong professions of his attachment to the Company, and of his earnest desire to comply with your Lordship's advice and recommendation. The delay in giving you proof of his sincerity was not, he said, imputable to him, but solely to the Paishwa, who continues to foment the dissensions in his family and government and has excited the insurgents to protract a final accommodation and remove to a distance, after his having granted them the conditions dictated by the Paishwa himself. He also accuses the Paishwa of obstructing the payment of the money to enable him to march, and finally of an intention to effect his ruin by intrigue and treachery.

These charges are highly improbable in their nature, for nothing can be clearer than that the removal of Sindia is indispensable to the recovery of the Paishwa's authority and dignity, and he himself appears to be sufficiently sensible of it. But it is not quite certain that he may not flatter himself with further advantages from extending by secret practices the disaffection to Sindia's person and government. He does not want advisers who profit by the distractions of the times, and is himself exceedingly inclined to prefer mystery, cunning and dissimulation to candour and openness of conduct. Yet experience may have taught him of how little avail such arts are likely to be in his contest with Sindia. In a word, I should not hesitate to pronounce that the Paishwa is seriously

endeavouring to effect the removal of Sindia by composing the troubles in his government, and that Sindia's accusations of him are mere pretexts for his continuing here, if it were not for the circumstance of the Paishwa's having shewn a readiness and alacrity in promising the assembling of his contingent for the war with Tippoo, which I am afraid ought not to be ascribed entirely to his zeal in the common cause, but also to a hope of being able, on pretence of this object, to collect a force sufficient to bring Sindia under total subjection.

Pursaram Bhow has been encouraged to repair to the Paishwa's standard by assurances of favour, the honour of a Khelaat dispatched to him, and the release of his principal adherents, confined since his expulsion from the Ministry, Rastah and Nursing Row. The other great Jagheerdars have been earnestly summoned to the field with their quota of troops, and a considerable number of the Paugah or household cavalry are come in from their foraging station to join Mahdarow Ramchunder.

Sindia appears to suspect that this unusual activity of the Paishwa is directed against him and has sent out spies to watch the motions of Pursaram Bhow. I learn that he had a long consultation with his principal European officers last night. I am apprehensive that he will oppose the junction of any considerable body of troops of the state. I shall, however, hope to deter him from the measure if he attempts it, by remonstrating against it as totally incompatible with subsisting relations between him and the Company, and in its effects directly hostile.

I have not been able by any argument, entreaty or importunity, to draw the Paishwa's attention to Your Lordship's overtures for extending and improving the alliance with the Company, although his situation has lately appeared to be nearly as alarming as when he solicited your succour. From this consideration and that of his having never discussed the stipulations submitted to him, I am induced to conclude that he has an invincible reluctance either to the nature of the proposed connections or to some of the conditions of it required from him, but will not by positively rejecting it, deprive himself of all hope of a proffered aid, which he may yet be reduced to the extremity of accepting.

The Minister still declines an interview with me on the reasons of his constant occupation in adjusting the affairs of Sindia, and his desire of first having a conference with the Paishwa, on whom he has not been able to attend for many days past.

I am not able to discover that Tippoo's Vakeel to this Court is advancing, nor do I apprehend that his negotiations, if he should come, will now prove successful. Govind Kishen has retired to his estate at thirty coss distance in a very bad state of health, and appears to have no concern in public affairs.

No. 168—The Resident reports the arrival of Tipu's Vakils at Poona and the preparations made by the Peshwa for collecting troops to march against him.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, 17th December 1798.

On the 15th the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees sent Shunker Row, the brother of Gopal Row to inform me, that Tippoo's Vakeels were on the frontier and that permission had been given for their advancing to Poona. The Paishwa and Minister directed Shunker Row to assure me that no engagements would be contracted with the Sultaun in consequence of this mission, nor any measure be adopted that can defeat or retard the efforts of this state to co-operate with the allies in the event of a war. They desired it might be observed to me that some advantage to the common cause might accrue from a knowledge of Tippoo's objects in this deputation, with which and the whole course of the negociations, I should be unreservedly informed. Nana Furnavees also directed Shunker Row to acquaint me that the period of his fever having passed without a return of it, he should desire to confer with me in a day or two.

I made my acknowledgments for this communication and expressed my confidence in the assurances given to me by the Paishwa and Minister, and said, that as I was to see the latter so soon, there was no occasion for my remark at present on the subject of the message.

If the Paishwa is influenced by the counsels of Nana, I am persuaded that the Sultaun will not succeed in his views at this Court, nor does it appear that the Paishwa himself has any predilection for that prince, or that he conceives it for his interests to violate his engagements with the Company and Nazim for an alliance so dangerous as that with Tippoo would be in the approaching unequal conflict.

If the Sultaun has no determined partizan in this government except Gobind Kishen Kauli, whose ill health and declining influence have induced him to retire from public business, advocates will not be wanting to undertake his cause for the prospect of reward. The family of the Phadkes related to the Paishwa, supported his interests and his former negociations at this Durbar, as I understand, merely on mercenary motives—a pension being settled on them by the Sultaun during their services, which was withdrawn on the Paishwa's engaging with the Company. The head of that house will be appointed to conduct the intercourse between the Durbar and Tippoo's Vakeels on the present occasion.

If the Paishwa and his Minister are sincere in their assurances to me of forming no engagements with the Sultaun, and of adhering inviolably to those of the defensive alliance, I shall only have to urge as early a dismissal of the embassy, as possible which appears to me indispensable to preserve

the appearance of harmony and consistency between the allies, so essential to the common interests. But whether my representations may be limited to this single point, or the negotiations may take a direction which will require to be opposed and counteracted, I shall probably be able in some degree to ascertain from my interview with the Minister, whom I hope to find prepared to speak decisively on this and every subject relative to Your Lordship's Government now under consideration at this Court.

No part of the Jagheerdary force of the State has as yet appeared at the capital, where now a general rendezvous is appointed in preference to a more convenient place, for the purpose of restraining the designs of Sindia, but to which, the troops are unwilling to repair on account of the excessive dearness of grain and forage. The household cavalry come in daily and about one thousand of this body are now collected in the city.

It is generally believed that Parasharam Bhau will comply with the Paishwa's invitation for his acceptance of the chief command of his force to be in readiness to march against Tippoo. This Sirdar is on every consideration competent for this particular service. A person just come from his camp informs me that his force consists of men of which about half the number are cavalry. As the Bhow would by no temptation be prevailed upon to fight in the cause of the Sultaun, it would be difficult for the Paishwa to supply any efficient aid to that Prince, if he was disposed to join with him.

Tippoo's ambassadors are probably instructed to apply to Dowlut Row Sindia if their negotiations with the Paishwa should fail. But I conceive it nearly impracticable for that chieftain to afford any assistance in the present distracted state of his Government in all quarters. And his possessions in Hindostan may, I think, be considered as a secure pledge for his preserving amity with the Company.

There has been no interruption to the tranquillity which, in my last address I informed Your Lordship, had been restored between the Paishwa and Sindia, and both are apparently intent on composing the dissensions in the family and government of the latter and proceeding to fulfil their mutual engagements.

No. 169—The Resident forwards to the Governor General a report of Meer Fakruddin's conversation with the Minister on the subject of prosecuting the war against Tipu.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 22nd December 1798.

Since I had the honour to address you on the 17th inst, having waited two days in expectation of the Minister's appointing an interview with me,

as Moonshy Shunker Row had informed me he would, I sent a message to remind him of his promise, and how necessary it is that in the appearances caused by the approach of Tipu's vakeels, and the uncertainty of the ability or intention of this government to fulfil its defensive engagements to the other allies, I should receive the most candid and unreserved communication on the actual situation and prospect of affairs.

In answer to this message Nana Furnavees said, that he would appoint an hour on the 20th for Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien to attend him. On the 19th he had a long conference with the Paishwa, at which all the treaties in force between this state and the Company and the Nizam were produced, and at which no other person was present. Nana did not, however, send for my agent yesterday. But a message at this moment came desiring to see him this evening, and I have instructed him to recall to the Minister's attention every point in suspense between the two Governments, and to repeat the arguments so often urged in support of the objects recommended by Your Lordship. I hope to communicate the result of the conference in this dispatch, but if too late for the dawk, and if it proves important, I will forward it by express dawk.

Sindia continues to proclaim his determination of speedily marching to Hindostan, but without questioning his sincerity I perceive no one circumstance favorable to his executing his intention. Accommodation with the disaffected party seems as distant as ever ; his counsellors and commanders of his brigades are wholly averse to the measure, and the means of subsistence for such an army as his in Hindostan, under the apprehension of immediate invasion by the Adballies, appear to be wholly unattainable. He is encouraged by his Ministers to rely in a considerable degree for the defence of his possessions in that quarter on the cooperation of the Company's forces in consequence of Colonel Collins' letter to Ambajee. I have endeavoured to remove this impression by reminding Sindia of my former declaration to him, that Your Lordship did not mean to engage in the defence of his dominions unless he repaired in person and with his whole force to act in concert with you. And I have remarked to him that he must never expect Your Lordship will interest yourself in the preservation of his Government while he, by remaining here, contrary to your earnest advice and remonstrances, obstructs the important objects of the alliance between the Company and the Mahratta state. To this representation he answers, that he is making every effort in his power to comply with your Lordship's wishes and does not doubt of being soon able to march.

The delay in the arrival of the Dawk from Bombay gives me time to transmit to the Persian Translator, for your Lordship's information, a copy of Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien's report to me of the conversation which he had last night with the Minister. Your Lordship is a better judge of the disposition and ability of Nana Furnavees to forward your plans for the

general interests of the allied powers from his own words, than from my narration of his discourse taken from verbal reports. I trust that the communications which the Minister has reserved for his conference with me tomorrow, will evince the Paishwa's ultimate intentions respecting an improvement of his alliances with the Company and the Nizam, and indicate to what extent his co-operation in the field may be relied upon.

No. 170—Meer Fakruddin was informed by Nana on the various requisitions of the Governor General that he would answer all points in his interview with the Resident the day after tomorrow.

Translation of a report made to Colonel Palmer by Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien, of his conversation with Nana Fumavees, on the 21st December 1798

I first informed the Minister that you had directed me to observe to him, that although Mahadarow Ramchunder had for some time entered his tents for the purpose of collecting the Jagheerdary troops, none had yet repaired to the Paishwa's standard. I said, that you wished to know when it was expected the forces of the Sircar would be in readiness to march, and who would have chief command of them, as hitherto there was little appearance of the Paishwa's co-operation. It was necessary that you should be able to give the Governor General certain information on this subject, especially as delay in preparing the Paishwa's contingent, the approach of Tippoo's Vakeels, and the arrival of expresses from him give His Lordship uneasiness. If this Government were able to cooperate, it should plainly declare so, that the Company's interests may not suffer by depending upon the present connexion between the two states, and on him the Governor General will chiefly depend for maintaining and improving it. He hoped that whatever he knew of the ability of this government for those purposes, he would freely communicate, while if he had not the authority from the Paishwa, it was hoped he would declare his sentiments and opinions in personal confidence. I then stated to the Minister your desire to learn the Paishwa's determination on the propositions of the Governor General for supplying him with a body of the Company's troops, on the requisition for your stationing regular Dawks; his (the Paishwa's) opinion of the Governor General's letter to Tippoo; on the subject of Tippoo's letters to the Paishwa brought by Shutersewars; when his Vakeels are expected, and your wish for their early dismissal, and what is settled respecting the march of Sindia and his reconciliation with the Bhyes.

Nana replied that purposing to have an interview with you the day after tomorrow, he would then satisfy your enquiries relating to the march and command of the Paishwa's contingent, to the subsidizing the Company's troops, the dawks, and the Paishwa's sentiments on the Governor General's letter to Tippoo. In the meantime he desired me to inform you that pressing requisitions have been sent to the Jagheerdars and Pauga Sirdars to furnish their respective quotas of troops to the state, and that they will be soon collected, with the exception of those of Rastah, which are appointed to oppose the Rajah of Koulapore. That for the present Mahadarow Ramchunder is charged with the duty of assembling the Paishwa's contingent, another person may hereafter be appointed to the chief command of them. The Minister then said, that the affairs of Sindia were so urgent as to leave him little leisure to attend to other concerns. He would desire Sindia's servants not to come to him on the day after tomorrow, but should they persist in coming he would confer with you in a separate apartment. Dowlut Rao's ministers have now retracted their engagement to give banker's security for the money to be advanced to him on condition of his marching to Hindostan, and he himself declares that Ramjee Patell has not his authority for entering into this engagement, and requires that the money be paid to him without other security than his promise to march. He also demands ten lacs, although seven lacs was the sum agreed upon, and says that he cannot restrain the violence of his troops. Bajy Row has reminded Sindia, that he desired Ramjee Patel might have entire credit for whatever he might propose in his name, he now disavows that minister. What is to be thought of such a proceeding? The Minister said, that Baboo Row Angria who had been with him from Sindia on that day, retired in displeasure, saying that he would not answer for the conduct of the troops. The other agents of Sindia who accompanied Baboo Row Angria, declared, that they would not leave Nana's house until their Master's demands were complied with, and that Sindia himself would come and remain there in Dhurna. Kistna Chitnavees also came and demanded the money without security. When he (Nana) objected to this demand, Kistna Chitnavees proposed that the Minister should obtain your security for repayment, in case Sindia should not march and that the latter should assure you of his marching. To which Nana answered that it would be difficult to obtain your security on this occasion, that in becoming his security to Sindia lately, you had acted on motives of personal consideration towards him, that the present object was an affair of state in which you would not interfere between the Paishwa and Sindia. While Kistna Chitnavees was making this proposal to the Minister, another person of Sindia demanded why he desired your interference; Nana answered that it was not his proposal and he had not replied to that of Sindia's Minister. Such was the state of things. Nana observed that the determination of the morning was reversed in the evening. From other quarters Nana learned that a correspondence subsisted between

Emrut Row and Sindia, of which the objects were to assume the administration of the Peshwa's Government to themselves, to render the Paishwa poweress and to seize the person of Nana. He was aware of another plot for the seizure of his person by Appa Khaul and Monohur Gheer Ghosse, to which Govind Kishen was said to be privy. Such, the Minister said, was his situation, that on the one hand he was threatened with captivity, and on the other incessantly harassed for money, with what confidence could he proceed, or how was he to act? It was his earnest wish to effect the proposed engagements between the Company and this state. Those which now subsist were formed by himself. He desired you to be assured that no object which the Company has in view, should be neglected, so far as his power enabled him to promote it, and that whatever should occur to him as tending to this purpose, he would impart it to you in friendship and confidence. That he was not yet informed of the contents of Tippoo's letters; when he was, he would communicate them. No intelligence was received of the Sultaun's Vakeels being yet advanced beyond Budam. As to their speedy dismissal which you require, it will be seen after their arrival what is the purport of their mission. In the late war Tippoo's Vakeels were admitted to reside at this Durbar to which Sir Charles Malet made no objection, but recommended our taking advantage of it, to the loss of the Sultaun.

The dispute between Sindia and the Bhyes, the Minister said, had lately undergone no alteration. Some of the insurgent Sirdars are desirous of reconciliation, others oppose it.

No. 170A—The Resident forwards his munshy report in original to the Governor General.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE PERSIAN TRANSLATOR AT FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 22nd December 1798.

I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the Governor General, a Persian copy of a report just made to me by my agent, Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien, of a conversation which he held last night with the Paishwa's Minister.

The want of time to translate this report into English and transcribe it in cypher for His Lordship's immediate inspection, compels me to forward it to you in original and to request you will please to lay it before him as soon as possible.

No. 171—The Resident in reporting his interview with the Minister says that the weakness and perverseness of the Peshwa's mind, the desperate situation of Sindia's affairs and his superiority of force disqualify the former's Government for performing their defensive engagements to the allies.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 24th December 1798.

I waited upon Nana Furnavees yesterday evening according to his appointment of which I had the honour to acquaint your Lordship in my last address, and found Moonshy Gopal Row and Narroo Punt Chuckerdeo in attendance.

The Minister apologized for having so long deferred an interview, which I had frequently desired, by the utmost incessant occupation of his time imposed upon him by the pressure and importance of Sindia's affairs.

I stated the concern and uneasiness which I felt at my inability, after so long a lapse of time, to give your Lordship any determinate or satisfactory information on subjects of such momentous concern to the general objects and interests of the triple alliance, and to the particular security of each state engaged in it, as those which your Lordship had submitted to the consideration of this Government, and as the most essential and urgent of them, I wished first to be candidly informed of the Paishwa's ability to furnish his contingent to the common cause, in what time, and to what amount.

To this enquiry the Minister answered that 25,000 cavalry would soon be assembled and ready to take the field, but he could not yet promise any specific time, perhaps in a month. When I expressed my doubts of any considerable body being so soon collected from the empty spaces of Mahadarow Ramchunder's camp, and of their inutility when collected, if Sindia continues in his present situation, whereupon the Minister and Gopal Row observed, that although the appearances here were unfavourable, and the response to military service was always dilatory in..... was collecting in the respective districts, and repair at once to the Paishwa's standard. They both acknowledged that Sindia's presence rendered nugatory the execution of any measure adopted by the Paishwa. But this obstacle they were earnestly labouring to remove, and expect in the course of a few days to accomplish.

This intimation led me to remind the Minister of your Lordship's propositions, so long neglected by the Paishwa, for assisting him in the re-establishment of his just rights and authority. And I could not help expressing my astonishment that after all their experience of the perfidy of Sindia and the boundless rapacity of his Ministers, any hope should

be entertained of moving him hence by formal engagement, in opposition to such principles and views as Sindia and his servants had invariably manifested. I said that I was wholly at a loss to account for the Paishwa's preferring means so experimentally insecure, to those held out by your Lordship which he knew to be effectual. That if any of the stipulations in return for the important service to be performed for the Paishwa, appeared objectionable, I was certain that I could explain them to his satisfaction. Your Lordship had no wish to benefit your own Government at his expense.

Moonshy Gopal Row here took up the discourse, saying that the Paishwa was perfectly satisfied of your Lordship's friendly and disinterested motives in offering your assistance for the recovery of his power and independence. But why might not a force be directed to march hither from Bombay, and to join the Paishwa's contingent, in the manner and on the conditions of the detachment furnished from that Presidency in the late war. I answered that this was a measure which must depend upon the plan of operations which your Lordship may resolve upon for the campaign. But supposing such a junction to be a part of it, the troops from Bombay would be ready to march on the shortest notice whenever the Paishwa's force should be formed.

From Gopal Row's coming abruptly to this point without the slightest discussion or remark, to which I had invited him, on any of the stipulations of your Lordship's proposals for new engagements, I am very much inclined to believe that the Paishwa is totally averse to the conditions required of him, but from delicacy does not make formal objections to them. And that the suggestion of the Moonshy is calculated to obtain all the advantages proposed by your Lordship for the Paishwa, without subjecting him to any of the stipulations of which the general interests and security are the objects.

I then desired to be informed of the purport of Tippoo's letters brought here by express camel hircarrhas, of which another pair has arrived since my last address, observing that this intercourse, and the admission of Vakeels from that prince in his present circumstances relative to the allies, would give Your Lordship just cause of alarm, unless an unreserved communication was made to you of the transactions which may ensue.

The Minister repeated the assurances which he had before given me, in the Paishwa's name and his own, of concealing no circumstance from me in this intercourse with the Sultaun, which can in the smallest degree affect the interests of the allies. He was not acquainted, he said, with the contents of the second express, those of the first were general and their chief import professions of amity to the Paishwa and the Company, and Tippoo's desire to live in peace with both. Gopal Row was silent on the second express, and it might be that the Paishwa had not then perused it.

The Paishwa concurred in the views which your Lordship has proposed to express to Tippoo, about the satisfaction and security which the allies will require of him for his late violation of treaty and insult to the British Nation, but expected, as Gopal Row said, from your Lordship's intimation of concerting the time and manner with the allies, that the application would have been made in a joint letter, and that this had been the former practice. I explained to the Moonshy that your Lordship considered the sentiments which your replies had already communicated to you, as authorizing you to make the demand on Tippoo without further reference, that effectively the letter was in the names of all the allies, and the manner and form were agreeable to precedent. Nana Furnavees observed that to the best of his recollection, the only difference on the present and former occasions of a similar nature was that the drafts of the Governor General's letters were submitted to the other allies before dispatch, but the variation was immaterial.

Having again stated to the Minister the advantage of expeditious correspondence at this critical conjuncture, I desired to know the Paishwa's answer to my application for a regular dawkh. He enquired of Narro Chuckerdeo whether he had mentioned my requirements to the Paishwa ; he said that he had twice mentioned it without receiving any answer. The circumstance is not deserving of notice on any other consideration than as it marks the narrow and unaccommodating spirit of the Mahratta Government, as the cossids may be increased in number and made nearly equal, in point of expedition, to the conveyance by Dawkh.

From the uniform declarations of the Paishwa and the Minister, and from the apparent interest of this state to fulfill its engagements to the allies, rather than to desist them from an alliance with Tippoo, I am of opinion that it is seriously and earnestly occupied in collecting its forces to co-operate in the expected war. But its ability actually to engage in it, seems to depend entirely on Sindia's removal, and is of course very precarious, or rather not to be expected.

Whether the Paishwa is actuated by his own jealous disposition, or influenced by the advice of others to reject the relief held out to him by your Lordship from the oppressive and degrading influence and dangerous designs of Sindia, I cannot discover. But I have been informed by persons who have sometimes opportunities of hearing the sentiments of the Durbar, that the chief objection to his accepting your proposals, is the stipulation for arbitrating the differences between him and the Nizam. This obstinate resistance to a measure so equitable and friendly can only be ascribed to that spirit of pride for which the Paishwa has distinguished the Bramin Government, and which neither the diminution, nor danger of the total annihilation of its power can subdue. Nana Furnavees is undoubtedly disposed to improve the connexion between

the Company and the Paishwa, either on motives of advantage and security to the Mahratta state, or that he conceives his own interests and safety would be but promoted by supporting the views of the British Government, and probably on both these considerations; but his influence is small and he is perhaps unwilling to obstruct its increase by a fruitless opposition to the Paishwa's will.

The weakness and perverseness of Bajy Row's mind will defeat every salutary measure proposed for himself or the state. The desperate situation of Sindia's affairs, his superiority of force and the unprincipled purposes to which he and his servants are capable of applying it, make me very apprehensive that scenes will ensue, which must entirely disqualify this Government for performing their defensive engagements to the other allies.

SECTION 3

Annihilation of Tipu—Bajirao's attitude
(December 1798—June 1799)

No. 172—The appointment of H. F. Colebrooke as Resident to the Court of Nagpur is announced

FROM—JOHN STRACHEY,

TO—COL. PALMER.

Fort William, 6th December 1798

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council to inform you that Mr. H. F. Colebrooke is proceeding to Nagpore as ambassador to the Court of the Rajah of Berar, and to desire, that you will correspond with him on all subjects relating to Berar.

No. 173—The Resident is informed that the Commander-in-Chief is leaving Fort William for Madras to command the British forces against Tipu.

FROM—G. BARLOW,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 7th December 1798

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General to acquaint you that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, will shortly

embark from this Presidency for Fort St. George, to take the command of the British forces destined to act eventually against Mysore.

No. 174—The Resident reports an agreement between Sindia and Nana Fadnis enabling the former to start on his journey to the North. The assemblage of Maratha troops at Poona and the arrival of Tipu's vakils are also communicated.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 28th December 1798.

My Lord,

Since my last address, some circumstances have occurred which afford a reasonable expectation of Sindia's retiring, and the consequent ability of this state to raise its contingent for the service of the war.

It is finally settled that he shall receive 23 lacs of rupees from the Paishwa on condition of his proceeding to Hindostan. Of this sum 11 lacs are to be paid here, and the remainder in two months after his march. Of the first instalment, three lacs have been issued, the remaining eight lacs are to be paid at his departure.

As Sindia has sent one lac of the sum which he has just received to the camp of the disaffected party, I presume that the differences between them are composed. But the strongest presumption of his wish to fulfil his engagements to the Paishwa, is that he has engaged Aba Chitnavees to resume the administration of his affairs under the guarantee of his commanders, this Minister being in the confidence of the Paishwa, and firmly attached to Nana Fadnis.

The Paishwa is endeavouring to collect contributions from his principal servants to defray the expense of subsisting the army of the state. Gobind Kishen is required to furnish ten lacs on the occasion. I am concerned to learn that my information of this person's having retired to his Purgunnah, is erroneous. He is still here but confined to his house by indisposition.

About 2,000 of Nehrsing Row's quota of troops have joined the Paishwa's standard. Rasta is employed against the Rajah of Koulapore. and there is yet time for an answer to the invitation sent to Pursaram Bhow. But as the Jagheerdary force enters upon the pay of the state from the time of its being summoned to the public service, there is no reason to apprehend any other impediment to its assembling but such as Sindia may choose to raise, or that which naturally arises from the reluctance of the troops to rendezvous at Poona on account of the high prices of provisions and forage.

I am informed by a person worthy of credit, that the purport of Tippoo's second express to the Paishwa is to solicit his mediation with your Lordship for peace, averring that he has given you no provocation to attack him. The Durbar has not yet made any communication to me of the contents of this letter, but they are probably in substance as above reported, since Tippoo must now wholly despair of being joined by his European auxiliaries. I have reminded the Minister that sufficient time has elapsed for giving me information on this subject.

The Sultaun's Vakeels have resumed their progress towards Poona: their suite is not considerable, nor is there any appearance of treasure attached to it. This Court will probably endeavour to obtain money by encouraging Tippoo to expect its friendly interposition, or even the promises of more substantial service. But the Mahratta possessions in Hindostan, the advantage which might be made of the factions in this state, the evident inability of the Sultaun to contend with the British Power in India, and the hopes of participating in the spoils of his dominions, are in my opinion, sure pledges of the Paishwa's adherence to the triple alliance, although the distractions of his Government may eventually disqualify him for any effectual exertions in the field.

No. 175—The Governor General intends to embark for Madras

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE PEISHWA.

Written, 12th December 1798

The arrangement of certain points at the Presidency of Madras, the affairs of which are equally committed to my superintendence with those of Bengal, having for some time past required my presence there, and the state of affairs in this quarter being such as to admit of a short absence, I have determined to proceed thither without delay, and shall accordingly embark in the course of a few days. My stay will in all probability be but short. In the meantime, however, I hope to be favored with accounts of your preparations. The close connexion subsisting between us makes it proper that I should communicate to you my intention without delay.

To

Dowlut Row Sindia,

Bhow Buckshy and

Cashee Row Holkar,

Of the same tenor and date.

No. 176—Col. Palmer reports that Aba Chitnis was restored by Sindia to his office of minister and that a satisfactory result may be expected from this arrangement.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 31st December 1798.

My Lord,

Being extremely desirous of conveying to your Lordship such authentic information of the actual situation and prospects of this Government, as may enable you to ascertain with some degree of certainty, whether its assistance may be expected and to what extent, in the event of a war with Tippoo, I directed Meer Fukkur-ul-Dien to wait upon Nana Furnavees for the purpose of obtaining the necessary communications, and I have now the honour to enclose a translation of his report of his conversation with the Minister.

From the report your Lordship will observe that the Minister apprehends no impediment to the assembling of the troops intended to compose the Paishwa's contingent, except from Sindia's continuing in his present position. But the junction of Pursaram Bhow's quota, which is to form the most considerable part of the force, appears to me very doubtful while the Raja of Koulapore continues in arms. At any rate, it is not to be expected that the Bhow will repair to Poona in person. He has suffered from the resentment of Bajy Row and Nana Furnavees supported by the power of Sindia and will hardly expose himself again to the troubles from which he has just emerged. I learn, however, that he some time ago declared his readiness to march with his whole force against Tippoo on the Paishwa's requisition.

The Mysore Vakeels are arrived within a few coss of this city, but no day is yet fixed for their entry. I shall endeavour by every means in my power to obtain a knowledge of their negotiations, independent of the communications which the Durbar may choose to make to me; and with such additional information, I expect to be furnished by the person who gave me the intelligence mentioned in my last address, of the contents of Tippoo's letters, and which agrees so exactly with the subsequent communication received from Nana Furnavees. I think that the circumstances of both the Paishwa's and Dowlut Rao Sindia's Governments, almost preclude apprehension of their espousing the interests of the Sultaun, either separately or in concert.

If Abba Chitnavees, who is to have his first audience of Sindia this day, should consent to resume the charge of that prince's affairs, little

doubt can be entertained of his re-establishing order and tranquillity in the Government, and conducting it with a regard to the true interest and reputation of his master, as he will not engage without the power to effect these purposes, and his character and former conduct afford a presumption that these will be the principal objects of his administration. On this event depends in a great measure the return of harmony in the Mahratta Empire and the consequent ability of the Paishwa to fulfil his engagements to his allies. All depending negotiations between the Paishwa and Sindia are suspended until Abba's determination is known.

The reports made to the Minister of the correspondence and intrigues carried on against him between Sindia and Emrut Row, are probably fabricated, or encouraged by one or both of those chieftains to intimidate him into their views. But if such really exist, they can have no other object, since Amrut Row has no possible means of supplying Sindia with money but such as the latter possesses himself, without any necessity of concessions or recourse to him. And their principles and views are so opposite, and their mutual distrust so rooted, that it cannot be supposed that they will ever cordially unite in any project whatever.

The Paishwa's intimation to Nana of his intention to let Emrut Row retire, is very inconsistent with the degree of intimacy and confidence which has for some time past apparently subsisted between the brothers. But it does not appear what motive he could have for insincerity in such a communication.

Bajy Row's disobliging refusal of the request to establish regular relays of Dawk hircarrahs for expediting intelligence at this important juncture, proceeds more from his own narrow and perverse disposition, than from any maxim or precedent of Government, since he is informed of its great expediency and utility to your Lordship, and knows that it cannot be of the smallest injury, or inconvenience to himself. He has not yet made any reply to Nana's remark on his refusal.

No. 176A—The following interview refers to the several points on which the Governor General had asked the Peshwa's answers, the state of Sindia's dispute with the Byes, the intrigue of Amritrao, etc.

Translate of Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien's conference with Nana Furnavees on the 29th December 1798.

I first desired to know what answer the Paishwa had given to your application for permission to place regular dawks. The Minister said, that the Paishwa had observed that as this requisition had been formerly

refused, it was not proper to grant it now. On which Nana had remarked to him that no inconvenience could arise from this measure, and as the frequency of importance of dispatches made it expedient he thought the request should be complied with.

To my enquiry of further communication on the subject of Tippoo's letters, the Minister said, they are in substance what he had told you, but to that might be added Tippoo's assertion of the intention of the British Government to attack him without provocation, and requesting the friendly interposition of the Paishwa to prevent a war.

I next acquainted the Minister with your wish to be informed of the true state of Sindia's affairs; he said that nothing was settled. It had been first agreed upon that Sindia should march at all events. If his disputes with the Bhyes could be accommodated, so much the better, if not, he would attack their party. Since this arrangement he has refused to march, until a reconciliation is effected. It is however, now agreed that he shall proceed as far as Koorygaum and there act as at first determined. There are two points still in dispute between Sindia and the disaffected party, the first relating to a fort to be given to the ladies for their security, the other the discharge of arrears due to their adherents. Aba Chitnavees is returned to the Durbar on the faith of Dowlut Row's European commanders; it will be seen what effects this circumstance will produce.

When requested in your name, to know the progress made in assembling the troops of the state, he desired that you would rely on his best exertions to complete this measure. You saw the confusions in this Government. If Sindia continued to disturb it, there was no remedy, otherwise you might be assured that nothing in his power should be neglected. The Russalah of Nehrsing was assembled, and the Paugha troops were daily coming in. No answer was yet received to the summons sent to Pursaram Bhow, who is at present occupied in opposing the incursions of the Rajah of Koulapore. If this service should prevent his repairing to the Paishwa's standard, he will depute his brothers.

After these communications the Minister proceeded to state to me, for your information, that a correspondence was carrying on between Emrut Row and Sindia for the purpose of seizing his person, establishing Emrut Row in his place, and rendering the Paishwa's authority merely nominal, after which they were to unite and attack the Nizam. For these services to be effected by Sindia's power, Emrut Row was to pay him 50 lacs of rupees, and undertook to accommodate his family quarrel on the single concession of a jagheer of seven lacs of rupees to the ladies. Nana said that the Paishwa was informed of these intrigues, and had signified to him his intention of permitting Emrut Row to repair to the Kokun to keep him out of the way until the troubles here should

subside, as Emrut Row himself requested. These reports, true or false, the Minister said, he wished to communicate to you in personal confidence and regard.

No. 177—The Secretary to Government intimates to the Resident the resolution of the Governor General to embark for Madras and the appointment of Lt.-Genl. Harris to the Command of the troops at Mysore.

FROM—G. H. BARLOW,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA

Fort William, 14th December 1798

The Right Honourable the Governor General being of opinion that the public service requires his presence at Fort St. George, His Lordship has resolved to embark for that Presidency in the course of a few days, on His Majesty's ship *La Sybille*.

Under the provisions of the act of Parliament of the 23rd year of the reign of His Present Majesty, the Governor General in Council at Fort St. George will be invested with the same ample powers and authorities as are exercised by the Governor General in Council at Fort William, and you are to address the Governor General in Council at Fort St. George on affairs of which it may be necessary that he should be apprized, or which may require his orders.

You are at the same time to forward to the Government of Bengal copies of all letters which you may so address to the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council at Fort St. George.

Since the date of my letter of the 7th instant acquainting you by order of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, that the Commander-in-Chief in India had resolved to proceed to the coast of Corromandal, accounts have been received from the camp of Zemaun Shah, which leave no room to doubt that the Shah has actually crossed the Attock, and that there is every reason to believe that it is his intention to prosecute his long meditated intention of invading Hindostan.

Under the present uncertainty of the views of the Shah it has been considered expedient that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India should remain in Bengal. In consequence of this determination the Right Honourable the Governor General-in-Council has been pleased

to appoint Lieutenant-General Harris to the General Command of the British forces on the Coast of Corromandal and Malabar, destined to act eventually against Mysore.

You are to advise the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council at Fort St. George and Lieutenant-General Harris, and the Government of Bombay of the preparations and movements of the Paishwa's forces. You will also conform to all suggestions which you may receive from Lieutenant-General Harris respecting the military movements and operations of the forces of the Paishwa, which he may judge it advisable to recommend, either as preparatory to a war, or for the conduct of it, if hostilities should take place.

No. 178—Palmer communicates to the Governor General the position of affairs at Poona with regard to Sindia and his ladies and the arrival of Tipu's Vakils to meet the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER, RESIDENT, POONA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 4th January 1799.

Since my last address, no change has taken place in the relative situation of the Paishwa and Dowlut Row Sindia; but a material alteration has been produced in the state of the disaffected party of Sindia's family and government by the death of Muzaffer Khan, the author of the insurrection, and by the return of Aba Chitnavees to the Durbar, which seems to preclude the readmission of Balloo Tautia to the ministry, on whom the ladies relied for Sindia's performance of any engagements which he might enter into with them for an accommodation.

These circumstances have enabled Sindia's deputies to detach several of the principal officers and a considerable part of the troops from the interests of the ladies, in consequence of which they have moved to a greater distance, and it is supposed, will retire to Hindostan and join the insurgents under Juggoo Bapoo and Lacawa Dada. A strong detachment from Sindia's army is ordered to march in pursuit of them.

I directed Gunput Ray, Colonel Collins's agent, on presenting to Sindia your Lordship's letter notifying your intention to proceed to

Fort St. George, to remind him in my name that his retiring from the Deccan was now become indispensable to my giving your Lordship any further expectation of the Paishwa's being able to fulfil his defensive engagements, and that it would give me great concern to be obliged to inform you that his persisting to remain here totally and solely prevented it.

On this representation Sindia repeated his protestations of a sincere intention to proceed to Hindostan with all possible dispatch, and said, that he should desire an interview with me in a few days to satisfy me on this subject.

Abba Chitnavees has not yet engaged to undertake the administration of Sindia's affairs, but assists in his counsels, and is supposed to influence the measures which are to be finally adopted

No addition has been made to the force assembled here since my address of the 28th ultimo Intelligence is received of Pursaram Bhow's having withdrawn from the frontiers, and being in march towards Poona, but he has not yet given any intimation of his intention to repair hither.

Tippoo's Vakeels are encamped at a garden near the city. They have not yet had an audience of the Paishwa, nor has any person from the Durbar visited them. There is no appearance of any treasure in their train, and their escort is too slender for the supposition of any considerable sum being entrusted to it Of the precise objects of their mission, I hope to give your Lordship some certain information in my next.

No. 179—The Resident communicates to the Governor General news about Sindia's plans of proceeding to the north and the overtures of Tipu to the Peshwa for securing the latter's aid in a war against the British.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 7th January 1799

My Lord,

The Paishwa having discharged within two lacs of rupees, the sum which he engaged to advance to Dowlut Row Sindia on condition of his proceeding to Hindostan, if the latter on receiving the balance should not immediately march, it may be concluded that he has determined to fix his government finally in the Deccan, and upon the subversion of

that of the Paishwa; for they cannot subsist together. It is, however, understood at the Durbar, or affected to be so, that Sindia will perform his engagements, as the Khelaat of presents customary on taking leave are prepared.

When I consider the utter contempt of good faith which Sindia has shown in every transaction when he could profit by the breach of it, my reliance on his sincerity in the present instance is very slender. If Abba Chitnavees should resume the administration, some hope may be entertained of adherence to engagements, as that minister will not undertake the charge until assured of competent power by the guarantee of the commanding officers of the regular brigades, who ultimately decide on every measure of Sindia's government. But I apprehend that his views and theirs are so widely different, that there is little probability of his obtaining this security.

I am informed that a third Vakeel secretly deputed by Tippoo to Sindia, accompanied those sent to the Paishwa, and that he separated from them within a few days journey of Poona, and has privately repaired to camp. I have directed Gunput Ray to remonstrate with Dowlut Rao on this proceeding, and to require that I shall be informed of the objects of this mysterious mission and of his determination upon it.

The Mysore Vakeels have not yet been introduced to the Paishwa. Ragoo Pundit, Daroga of the Faraush-Khana, is the person appointed to conduct the intercourse between them and the Durbar, and not Rastah as the Paishwa's Moonshy at first informed me. Ragoo Pundit visited the deputies yesterday for the first time, and remained near two hours with them. Their principal instruction is said to be to solicit the Paishwa's mediation with your Lordship for peace, but this I hear on no better authority than common report.

About 4,000 troops destined for the eventual service against Tippoo, are collected in Mahadarow's camp, and in the city. There is at present no prospect of any considerable accession to this force. The rendezvous at Poona being obviously calculated to check the ascendancy of Sindia, none of the great Jagheerdars are inclined to enter into an unequal conflict with that chieftain in support of the Paishwa, for whose person and authority not one of them manifests the smallest respect or concern. Until Sindia withdraws, and the Paishwa allows full scope to the abilities and experience of Nana Furnavees, no reasonable expectation can be indulged of this state being in a condition to fulfil its defensive engagements to its allies.

I have the honour to enclose duplicates of my two last addresses, and to be.

No. 180—The Persian Translator forwards to the Resident a letter to the Peshwa from the Governor General.

FROM—THE PERSIAN TRANSLATOR TO G. G. ,

TO—THE RESIDENT, POONA.

19th December 1798

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Right Honourable the Governor General to the Paishwa in reply to his upon the subject of the jewels restored to him by order of the Court of Directors, enclosed in your favour of the 28th August 1798 Copies in English and Persian accompany for your information.

No. 181—The Governor General congratulates the Peshwa upon the restitution of his father's jewels and reminds him that it is a token of the close connection and attachment which unite the two states in one common interest.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE PESHWA.

13th December 1798

I have had the honour to receive your letter on the subject of the jewels of the late Ragonaut Row (*vide* that received 20th September 1798).

It has afforded me great satisfaction that the final delivery of the jewels deposited by your late father with the Bombay Government, the restitution whereof without receiving payment of the amount for which they were pledged, constitutes so peculiar a mark of the Hon'ble Company's friendship, should have taken place under my administration. It is a further satisfaction, that this valuable present should have been made to you when in the double capacity of head of the State and representative of the family to which the jewels appertained. I congratulate you on the restitution of them, and I trust you will consider it, as it is intended, a token of respect for the memory of your father, and of that close connection and attachment which unite the two states in one common interest.

No. 182—Bajirao informs the G. G. of his having received the family jewels of his father and reciprocates his desire to increase his friendship with the Company.

FROM—THE PESHWA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Received 20th September 1798.

Lord Cornwallis formerly addressed me a letter stating that the Court of Directors had sent to him the jewels which had been some time before deposited by Ragonaut Row with the Bombay Government, and that considering them as the property of my family, they conceived that it would be satisfactory to me to receive them and accordingly had requested him to forward them to Poona. That His Lordship had in consequence communicated all these circumstances to Sir John Shore, who would be happy in forwarding them to me; Sir John Shore having now, in conformity to friendship, dispatched these jewels to Poona, they have consequently been delivered to me by Colonel Palmer.

I am fully convinced of your desire to improve the friendship and union subsisting between me and the Company, and it is equally the subject of my wishes.

Your Lordship will constantly gratify me with accounts of your health.

No. 183—The Resident sends news to the Governor General regarding movements of the Peshwa's troops, the war between Sindia and his ladies, and the Vakils that had come to Poona from Tipu.

FROM—THE RESIDENT, POONA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th January 1799.

My Lord,

Perceiving how necessary it is become in point of both time and circumstances, that your Lordship should receive the most explicit information which can be obtained of the actual situation and views of this Government in all its political relations, I sent a message to the Minister on the 8th desiring that notwithstanding his still labouring under the complaint of a remittent fever, Meer Fukeer-ul Dien might wait upon him, to which

he very readily assented, and appointed the same evening for the visit, but a severe return of the fit obliged him to postpone it until the next day.

I had instructed Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien to enter into such enquiry and discussion of every subject depending between the Company and this State as might be productive of the information required. He commenced, as the most material, with enquiring into the progress made in assembling the Jagheerdars' contingents, when it might be expected to march, and whether Mahdarow Ramchunder would be continued in the command of it. Nana answered, that the troops would soon be collected and ready to march, and that a superior Officer to Mahdarow would be appointed to the chief command. Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien observed that from the appearance of Mahdarow's camp, but little expectation could be formed of such early preparation as the Minister promised, and that I was very uneasy under the apprehension of failure in this important measure. Nana hereupon repeated his assertion that the force would soon be formed and I should be convinced, but desired that I would make allowance for the perplexity of affairs at this Durbar.

Nana then informed Fukeer-ul-Dien that he expected Rastah's quota of troops would soon join the Paishwa's standard. That chief was at present employed in pursuit of the Raja of Sattarah's brother, who taking advantage of Rastah's temporary absence, had suddenly collected a rabble, and fallen upon his camp in the night. But the assailants were surprized by his return, attacked and routed. Ragoojee Bhonsla had also been required to furnish his stipulated force of 5,000 cavalry to the service of the State, and the Minister said, that he did not doubt of his complying with the requisition, although he was much displeased with the Paishwa for having acted with duplicity in the session of Gurrah Mundela.

Fukeer-ul-Dien next desired to know what probability there was of Putsaram Bhow's obeying the Paishwa's summons. Nana answered *that the dress and jewels reported so long since to have been sent by the Paishwa to that sirdar, had not yet set out; when these were delivered, his determination should be known, that he had retired from the Koulapore frontier, and was encamped near the Kishna.*

On my agent's enquiring the state of dispute between Doulat Row Sindia, and his family and sirdars, and the prospect of his repairing to Hindostan, Nana informed him that with respect to the latter, Sindia still professed an adherence to his engagements to march on receiving payment of the first kist stipulated for that purpose, that a part of it had been paid in money, and Shroffs had made themselves responsible, and these people were now to receive from him assurance of his fulfilling his engagement as soon as they should pay him the money.

All hope of reconciliation between Sindia and his parents, Nana said, was now at an end, most of the Sirdars had abandoned the cause of the ladies, and they were returning in the direction of the Nizam's dominions. Sindia has determined to detach troops in pursuit of them, and has requested of the Paishwa to send him 2,000 horse for this purpose, and to solicit the Nazim to prevent the retreat of the fugitives through his territories. The Paishwa has promised to comply with both these requests, whenever Sindia shall retire with his army from Poona.

Wishing to know the situation and intentions of Abba Chitnavees, I directed Fukeer-ul-Dien to make a particular request of information from the Minister on this subject, knowing that entire confidence subsists between them. Nana without hesitation disclosed what had passed between them at the only conference which they have had. Abba Chitnavees told his friend that he had returned to the Durbar on the most pressing invitations from Sindia and his ministers, and under security from the Colonels of the three Brigades for liberty to retire again without injury to his person, honour, or property, if he should decline the charge of administration. That since his arrival Sindia had given him the most solemn assurances of supporting him in uncontrolled authority, and added many other incitements to his acceptance of the Ministry to which he told Sindia in answer, that he was devoted to his service, but that the mean and worthless people with whom he associated, have such an influence over him, that no minister can be safe against their machinations. Upon this objection Sindia swore to him that he would not allow those persons to make the least unfavourable impression on his mind against him, but that they and every other person in his service would be obedient to his will. Having said thus much, Abba abruptly asked Nana what he intended respecting the Paishwa's Ministry, who answered, that his wish was to pass the remainder of his days in devotion somewhere on the banks of the Ganges, but if Bajy Row insisted on his services, he must submit. In this case Abba (said), as the capacities, dispositions, and pursuits of our respective masters are nearly similar, we, by a good understanding between ourselves, may conduct the affairs of both governments with reputation and success.

The next topic introduced by Fukeer-ul-Dien was that of the embassy from Tippoo, on which he reminded the Minister of my request for information of its objects and for its early dismissal, observing that an intercourse had commenced between the Durbar and the ambassadors without any communication of its nature being yet made to me, and that the Vakeels had been some days residing in the city, without having yet had an audience of the Paishwa, from which it might be inferred that their stay would be unnecessarily prolonged.

Nana Furnavees explained the circumstances which caused these observations, by saying that he was not yet informed of the extent of the

mission, but whatever it might be, I should be made fully acquainted with it as the Vakeels disclosed it, that he had purposely delayed their audience, lest it should appear that the Paishwa was eager to enter into negotiation with them. But since it was my wish to expedite their departure, their audience should take place immediately. That Ragoo Pundit and one of the Paugah sirdars had visited the Vakeels on the part of the Paishwa, but he understood the visit to have been merely complimentary.

The Minister then proceeded to state some additional circumstances in Tippoo's late letters to the Paishwa which had come to his knowledge since the communication which he had made to me, and which he accounted for by saying that it was Tippoo's practice in his correspondence with this Durbar, to write two letters at the same time and of similar import, one in the Persian, and the other in the Hindwy character. The Minister himself opens and peruses the latter, and gives the Persian letter to the Paishwa's Moonshy to be translated for his information. On the present occasion there was a difference between the contents of the two letters, that in the Hindwy character containing no more in substance than what had been imparted to me, but the Persian letter contains some detail of the Sultaun's late transactions with the French, stating that about forty persons of that nation embarked on one of his vessels returning from Mauritius, and were landed in his dominions; of this number he retained in his service a few who were artizans or mechanics, and dismissed the rest. In this proceeding he had infringed no condition of the treaty. Your Lordship had written to him that the French were a perfidious and treacherous people, was it not therefore probable that the proclamation of the Governor of Mauritius, of which you complained, had been framed to answer the purposes of that nation, and why would you and the other allies attack him upon a presumption of that document being authentic? The Minister observed that this additional communication differed only in being more in detail, the object hitherto avowed by Tippoo being the same, that is, conciliation. But he was anxious to inform me of it, that I might not suppose he had any purpose of concealment in whatever relates to the interests and connection of the two States.

I had directed Fukeer-ul-Dien to expostulate with the Minister on a transaction which had passed under the sanction of his authority, and which in the peculiar circumstances of the time, I could not but consider as a studied and public affront. This was an abrupt expulsion of some writer and other servants attached to the Residency from a house in the city, which was allotted for the habitation of the Resident and had been occupied by him or his people from the first establishment of the Residency, to accommodate the suite of Tippoo's ambassadors. Nana

with emotion disclaimed all knowledge of the proceeding, and finding on enquiry that Gopal Row was the person from whom the order originated, he immediately sent for him, and in the presence of Fukeer-ul-Dien, severely reprimanded him for so unauthorised and offensive a use of his name. The Moonshy did not offer a word in defence or extenuation of his conduct, but was wholly abashed and confounded.

This transaction would not deserve your Lordship's notice, but as an additional proof of the unremitting attention of the faction of Gobind Kishen to seize every opportunity of interrupting the harmony subsisting between the two governments, in hopes of defeating or obstructing the objects of the defensive alliance.

Dowlut Row Sindia positively denies the arrival of a vakeel from Tippoo in his camp; I have no reason to doubt his assertion; and therefore conclude that my information was erroneous. At the same time he observed, that he might receive a Vakeel from that prince without injury or offence to the Company, and that in fact he was in the habit of intercourse with him, sometimes by correspondence and sometimes by personal agency, but without the smallest deviation from the friendship and connection which he had so long maintained with the Company.

I must confess that it appears to me the Minister is not warranted, even by his own statement of affairs, in that confidence which he expresses of soon assembling the contingents of the chiefs of this Empire. He indeed, best knows his own resources, but I am apprehensive, that the assurances which he gives of this State taking its part in hostilities, is rather with a view to maintain its claim to a share in the eventual successes of the war, than from a firm expectation of being able to contribute to them.

In order to obtain the best intelligence of the strength, movements and designs of the chieftains who are to furnish troops for the Paishwa's contingent, I have sent intelligent persons to the several camps,—Pursaram Bhow, Rastah, and Doondo Punt Gokla, and shall employ every other means in my power to ascertain what reliance may be placed on the effectual co-operation of this State.

I am just now informed that Tippoo's Vakeels had their audience of the Paishwa yesterday evening. It was given in full Durbar, and of course was confined to compliment and exchange of presents. Whether it was appointed in consequence of my representation to the Minister or had been previously fixed, and he concealed the circumstance to assume the appearance of complying with my request, I cannot pretend to determine. But the interview having taken place, there is less pretext for delay in dismissing the embassy.

No. 184.—This covering letter mentions several letters intimating British successes over the French being despatched to the Resident for delivery to the respective addressees

FROM—THE PERSIAN TRANSLATOR TO GOVT.,

TO—THE RESIDENT, POONA.

Fort William, 21st December 1798.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you letters from the Right Honourable the Governor General to the Peishwa, Dowlut Row Sindea, Bhow Buckshy, and Cashee Row Holkar, notifying the further success of His Britannic Majesty's arms over those of the French nation in the port of Alexandria; copies in English and Persian are enclosed for your Information.

P.S.—It has been impossible to furnish you as yet with copies and translations of the declaration and manifest enclosed in the Right Honorable the Governor General's addresses. But they will be transmitted hereafter.

No. 184A.

TO—THE PAISHWA.

Written, 21st December 1798.

Having already done myself the honor to communicate to you the signal success of His Britannic Majesty's fleet over that of the French at Abukir, I think it incumbent upon me to apprise you of its continuation. Information has just been received that more ships which conveyed the French troops and stores to Egypt, 150 in number, have all been destroyed at Alexandria by the ships of the British fleet, and that the French troops in Egypt, cut off from supplies from Europe, and a prey to sickness and the sword, can make neither progress nor retreat, and are greatly reduced in number. I have also further to inform you, that the Grand Signior justly outraged by that most unprovoked and unjustifiable aggression on part of the French, their invasion of his dominions in Egypt, has publicly and formally declared war against them, and the Russians who now, with every nation in Europe, see with

detestation the faithless conduct and the extravagant ambition of the French, have united with the Porte, and their respective fleets have formed a junction to act offensively against the common enemy.

Deeming it of importance to the general good of mankind that the atrocious conduct and principles of the French should be exposed to the world, I enclose a translate of the declaration of war made by the Porte.

To Dowlut Row Sindia,

To Bhow Buckshee, and

To Caushee Row Holkar

Of the same tenor and date as the foregoing, except the last paragraph, which is omitted in the letters to the two latter.

No. 185—Palmer communicates to the Governor General news from the Peshwa's court, with reference to Sindia's march to the north and the arrival of Tipu's Vakils at Poona.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 12th January 1799.

My Lord,

The affairs of this Government have undergone no apparent alteration since my last address. Sindia has, indeed, fixed on an auspicious day for entering his tents, I believe the 19th instant. But should he adhere to it, I shall yet suspect it to be but a feint to obtain the money which the bankers are to pay on the event, as there is no appearance of preparation in his cantonments for a long march.

Tippoo's Vakeels have not had an interview with the Paishwa since their introductory audience, nor has there been much resort to them from the Durbar. I have received private information from a person connected with Ragoo Pundit who conducts the intercourse on the part of the Paishwa that they have intimated in discourse the disposition of their master, to renounce all connection with the French, and to dismiss every subject of that nation from his dominions for the satisfaction of your Lordship and your allies.

It is very probable that this Court, with a view to pecuniary or other advantage, will encourage the Vakeels to expect an accommodation through its interposition on those concessions, or assume the merit of procuring conciliation on whatever conditions your Lordship may prescribe. But I think that the Paishwa must feel that the offer of mediation would

come with a very ill grace from him after having declined that of your Lordship between him and the Nazim

In the meantime I do not hear the least rumour or surmise of any intention in the Paishwa to depart from his defensive engagements. The misfortune to be apprehended is, that he will not be in a condition to fulfil them

The levies here are at a stand. The greatest accession of force is expected from Pursaram Bhow, whose army near the southern confines of this State is reported to consist of 30,000 men. I am informed that the Paishwa has left him an option of attacking Tippoo's dominions from his present position, when war shall be declared, if he is averse to repairing to Poona. It is hardly to be doubted that the Bhow will prefer to commence his operations from his present situation, to making a retrograde march to Poona, and an eventual contest with Sindia. Nor can his inclination to engage in hostilities against the Sultaun be doubted. But as his troops must be paid by the state as soon as they enter on its services, there is little prospect of bringing them into action while the presence of Sindia subjects the resources of Government to his rapacity.

Sindia has not been very ingenuous in his denial of a Vakeel to him from Tippoo. I have since discovered that a person named Dhurmajee, the same as mentioned in the intelligence received by the Government of Fort St. George from Mysore, actually accompanied the Vakeels from the Sultaun, and, as my information persists, expressly deputed to Sindia. On stating this discovery to Bhow Bukshy, he admits that the person in question is arrived, but in the character of a news-writer, and resides in the city. I have stationed people to observe this man's connections and occupations, and I hope to ascertain what are the real objects of his agency, and the motives of Sindia or his servants for attempting concealment in it, on which I shall make suitable remonstrances.

No. 186—The G. G. is informed that Govindrao Kale was imprisoned by the Peshwa

FROM—W PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 15th January 1799.

My Lord,

I am just now informed that the Paishwa last night sent Gobind Kishen Kauli and a person named Sheoram Thakar, one of his principal adherents, prisoners to the fort of Satarra.

I have not yet been able to ascertain for what offence this punishment is inflicted, but it is vaguely reported that those persons have been detected in carrying on a correspondence with Emrut Row injurious to the Paishwa.

No. 187—The Resident communicates to the Governor-General how and why Govindrao Kale was confined. He also reports the failure of the reconciliation between Sindia and his ladies.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th January 1799.

My Lord,

At my request, Nana Furnavees admitted Meer Fukkur-ul-Dien to an interview on the 16th for the purpose of learning the proposals and views of Tippoo in the deputation from him to this Court, the determination or intentions of the Paishwa upon them, when the Vakeels would be dismissed, and what prospect there now is of this State being able to co-operate with its allies in the event of a war against the Sultan.

The Minister expressed his readiness to give me the most explicit information on these points, and on every other relative to the Company's interests and connections with this Government. But the urgency of Sindia's affairs left him no leisure for attention to other objects, and of course he had nothing new to communicate on those which were the subjects of my enquiries. The Mysore Vakeels had repeatedly desired an interview with him for the purpose of disclosing their instructions, which indisposition, as well as the constant attendance of Sindia's agents, had obliged him to defer, but as the fever had not returned at the last expected period, he was in hopes of being able to admit their visit in course of two or three days, and would fully impart to me such propositions as might be made at it, and the answers to them. He desired that I would be perfectly assured of the Paishwa's resolution to adhere to his defensive engagements, whatever temptation Tippoo might offer to seduce him from them, and that the Vakeels should be dismissed without the smallest unnecessary delay.

With respect to the contingent of this State, the Minister declared the Paishwa's and his own sincere and earnest desire to furnish it with the

utmost expedition, and to the fullest extent which their ability would permit. But until Sindia leaves this Government to its own exertions, no positive assurances can be given of its being in a condition to act against the common enemy. Pursaram Bhow is still at Budam on the southern frontier. The presents ordered for him from the Paishwa have been delayed by the indisposition of the person to whose charge they are given; when these are delivered the Minister expects an answer to the invitation given to the Bhow to come to Poona, and his determination on the required service of his force against Tippoo.

Nana Furnavees, in conclusion, desired Fukeer-ud-Dien to convey to me the most solemn protestations of his desire to maintain and improve the harmony and alliance subsisting between the Company and this Empire, and his firm determination to apply his utmost power and influence to the faithful and liberal performance of the existing obligations of the latter to its allies.

I have a firm reliance on the assurances given by Nana, as he has always had the reputation of sincerity in his professions, and, as I think, that he must be convinced his own security and interests depend in a great measure on his promoting your Lordship's views in your proposals for securing and improving the benefits of the Triple Alliance. But what ability the power of Sindia or the distrust of the Paishwa will leave him to effect his purposes, is yet uncertain.

At this meeting Nana Furnavees related the transaction which caused the confinement of Gobind Kishen Kauli, and which was the conspiracy formed between Sindia and Emrut Row for the seizure of Nana's person, and depression of the Paishwa's authority as reported in Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien's conversation with the Minister, of which I enclosed a translation in my address to your Lordship of the 31st ultimo. Gobind Kishen supposing that the Paishwa would approve of any plan for the removal of Nana Furnavees, disclosed to Bajy Row in person, with the exception of that part which he was to suffer in it; but the Paishwa having been previously informed by Nana of what was intended against him, and perceiving from as much as Gobind Kishen chose to communicate of the scheme, that he must be the victim of the proposed coalition between Emrut Row and Sindia, rose abruptly from his seat as soon as Gobind Kishen had finished the disclosure and ordered him to be taken into confinement. This affair has produced no other consequences to Emrut Row than his being more narrowly watched by his brother.

Sindia and his Ministers are greatly alarmed at the advice received from Ambajee and M. Perron, of Colonel Collins having plainly declared to them that your Lordship would not permit the Company's troops to act in defence of his dominions while he is absent. And Abba Chitnavees and Bhou Bukshy have signified to me through Gunput Ray Sindia's

wish to confer with me on the state of his affairs in Hindostan as soon as he shall be released from the restraint of Dhurna under which his troops have put him for their arrears. I have some hope that this interview is desired in consequence of previous arrangements which may satisfy me of Sindia's determination to retire, as it is reported that he is to visit the Paishwa this evening, preparatory to his entering his tents tomorrow and that his principal servants have contributed to discharge the arrears of his army.

The person mentioned in my last and preceding address as an agent from Tippoo to Sindia, has since delivered a letter from the Sultaun to Sindia in person, which Bhow Bukshy asserts to contain no other subject than a request that the bearer may be permitted to write the occurrences of the Durbar, and assures me that Sindia will enter into no connexions with Tippoo beyond an intercourse of civility.

Abba Chitnawees has not yet accepted of the office of minister to Sindia, not relying upon the assurances, or even the power of the Prince for such protection and support as will enable him to discharge the trust with advantage to the state, and security to himself. But he continues to assist with his counsels and advice.

The prospect of reconciliation between Sindia and his parents seems to be more distant than ever. A brother of Abba Chitnawees, who was lately sent to treat with them, is returned with their absolute refusal to accept of any terms which shall not be guaranteed by all his Sirdars and European Commanders. In consequence of this answer, a detachment which has been some time formed is ordered to march immediately in pursuit of the insurgents.

I have the honour to enclose duplicates of my addresses of the 7th and 11th inst. and to be etc. etc.

No. 188—The Resident writes to the G. G. news from the Poona Court about Sindia's intention of proceeding to the north and about the march of Parashuram Bhau against Kolhapur.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 21st January 1799.

On the 18th Sindia visited the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees, and the next day proceeded to his encampment about 5 coss distant from Poona;

But he did not move without great reluctance, nor until Abba Chitnavees, Baboo Row Angria, and most of his principal servants represented to him that as they were bound to refund the money received from the Paishwa on condition of his marching, if he did not fulfil the engagement, they must retire from his service. The greatest part of his troops are still in cantonments, with little appearance of being soon able to move.

As soon as I was informed that Sindia had actually proceeded to camp, I directed Gunput Roy to express to him my disappointment at his not having desired an interview with me before his departure, as his ministers had since intimated to me was his intention, and to request that he would enable me to make some satisfactory communication to your Lordship on the subjects of his final determination to repair to the defence of his dominions in Hindostan, and on the nature of his intercourse with Tippoo Sultaun, since Vakeels or agents were mutually residing at his Court and that of Mysore, and with an apparent desire of concealment on his part, which was inconsistent with the friendly professions to, and connection with the Company. Gunput Roy has been detained in cantonments by indisposition, but intends to reach the camp this day

Wishing to learn the Minister's opinion of the consequences of this first movement of Sindia, I yesterday requested his permission for Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien to wait upon him. But as he had appointed that evening for receiving Tippoo's Vakeels, he has desired Fukeer-ul-Dien to attend him this evening. A note from Moonshy Gopal Row last night informed me that the visit had taken place, but that it was in public Durbar and merely ceremonious

I have instructed my agent to repeat to Nana the obligations which this Court is under to give your Lordship an unreserved detail of any negotiations which may ensue with the Mysore Vakeels, and to say that it is on him alone you can rely, for this necessary and important communication.

Pursaram Bhow has marched against the Rajah of Koulapore or Pannala, and accounts of an action between them are hourly expected. It is uncertain how long the Bhow may be occupied in this service, but as the scene of his operations will be confined to the vicinity of Tippoo's northern frontier, he will be in the most favourable position for an early attack of the Sultaun's dominions on that side, if this state should be able to supply an effectual force in the cause of the allies

P S.—Since closing my letter, I have received a message from Dowlut Row Sindia, requesting to see me in his camp on the 23rd to which I have answered that I will attend him.

No. 189—The Resident assures the Governor General of his readiness to carry out faithfully all the instructions that he had received from the former. He adds that Nana Fadnis was favourably disposed towards the proposals of the Governor General.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 22nd January 1799.

My Lord,

I have just time at the dispatch of the Dawks to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's commands of the 11th instant, to assure you of my most unremitting attention to every object comprised in them, and to inform you that the result of my agent's conference with Nana Furnavees last night, was as satisfactory as the most favourable disposition of that Minister to the connection and interests of the two States could make it, and not without hopes of his ability to promote them. The substance of the most material points, for your Lordship's information, is, that Pursaram Bhow is directed to maintain a position favourable to the invasion of Tippoo's northern dominions, that Abba Chitnavees earnestly labours to accelerate the departure of Sindia, and that the dismissal of Tippoo's Vakeels shall be early, and their negotiation terminate to your satisfaction.

No. 190—The Governor General embarks for Madras.

FROM—THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 25th December 1798.

Sir,

I am directed to acquaint you that the Right Honourable the Governor General left Fort William this morning, and proceeded down the river to embark on His Majesty's Ship *La Sybille* for Fort St. George.

The Governor General has nominated His Excellency the Honourable Lieutenant General Sir Alured Clarke, K.B., Vice-President and Deputy Governor of Fort William during his absence from Bengal.

No. 191—The Resident describes his interview with Sindia on the questions of delaying his march to the north and entertaining Tipu's Vakils at his Court The Sindia put forth lame excuses

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 25th January 1799

My Lord,

Conformably to the appointment of Dowlut Rao Sindia as mentioned in my address of the 21st, I waited upon him in his camp on the 23rd Abba Chitnawees and Bhow Bukshy were in attendance After the usual compliments were passed, I was silent in expectation of some proposal or communication from Sindia, as he had desired the interview It appeared, however, from the pause which ensued, that he rather expected information, than desired to give it But observing that I made no advances towards opening the conversation, he began it by saying, that your Lordship had announced to him your intention to proceed to Madras, but he did not know whether you were arrived, or what were the objects of your journey I informed him of your safe arrival, and told him that I was not advised of the precise motives of your Lordship's repairing to that Presidency; they might be various, but I conceived the most pressing and immediate to be the facilitating of an accommodation with Tippoo Sultaun, if that prince was disposed to make reparation for his infraction of the peace, or to afford more efficacious support to the operations of war, if he should refuse it

On this explanation Sindia enquired into the nature of Tippoo's aggressions against the allies, and although he had long since been circumstantially informed of them, I repeated the detail of the Sultaun's negotiations and proceedings with the French, and stated the danger to which the allies and all India would have been exposed if they had taken effect As no comment was made on this relation, I could not perceive the tendency of so superfluous an enquiry, which perhaps was only made for want of something to say I therefore took the occasion to remind Sindia of the representation which I so long since made to him from Your Lordship, and have frequently repeated the injury to which his presence here subjects the cause of the allies, and which is now beginning to take effect from the disability of the Paishwa to collect his contingent, after the other allies have been so long prepared, and may be said to be in field I continued to observe, that he had also by persisting to remain here deprived himself of the aid which your Lordship was desirous of affording him, for the defence of his dominions, if he had repaired to their protection in person; but that, however, your

Lordship might prefer the stability of his Government to the introduction of that of Zemaun Shah, it could not be expected that you should engage to maintain it, when he himself appeared to neglect it; much less could it be expected of you when he continued to occupy a station which you had repeatedly remonstrated to him, was hurtful to the interests of the allies, and serviceable to the enemy. I desired him to recollect your Lordship's declaration of the friendly light in which you could have regarded his compliance with your recommendation of his proceeding to Hindostan. I remarked the disappointment and dissatisfaction which you could not avoid to feel in proportion to the length of time for which your advice had been neglected, to the increased urgency of affairs, and to the suspicious circumstance of an intercourse with the Court of Mysore, attempted to be concealed.

Sindia appeared to be considerably affected by these representations, and immediately entered into the strongest protestations of attachment to the Company, and of his sincere disposition to conform to and promote your Lordship's views, apologizing for any appearance of opposing them, or of resisting your advice, by the perplexity and distress of his affairs, desiring that I would give you the most solemn assurances of his sincere and earnest endeavours to retire from the Deccan with all possible expedition and to assist, rather than obstruct, the Paishwa in assembling his contingent to co-operate with the allies.

I answered, that these assurances could not fail of being satisfactory to your Lordship, and that I hoped they would be corroborated and confirmed by an explanation of such circumstances as appeared to have a contrary tendency.

On this intimation, Abba Chitnavees understanding that I alluded to Sindia's intercourse with Tippoo, and to the sincerity of his declarations respecting his departure from the little appearance of preparation in his camp, entered into a detail of the transactions which had caused his detention in the Deccan, and stated his prospect of ability and desire to leave it very soon on the retreat of the disaffected party, and on receiving a supply of money sufficient to answer the immediate demands of his troops. Bhow Bukshy accounted for the intercourse with Tippoo by asserting that Serjajee Ghautky had deputed an agent to that Prince, for his own purposes without authority from Sindia, and the person lately arrived from the Sultaun was merely reappointed to a station which he had formerly held, that of news-writer at the Paishwa's and Sindia's Durbars. I did not attempt to dispute the Bhow's veracity in this relation, improbable as it appears, but remarked, that however inoffensive the Maharaja's design in this intercourse might be, the very appearance of a good understanding between him and the Sultaun in the present conjuncture, could not fail to produce effects in some degree favourable to the latter, and prejudicial to the cause of the allies, adding that it would give your Lordship great

satisfaction if the intercourse was totally discontinued. Bhow Bukshy in reply pleaded the practice of the courts of Hindostan, but said if it gave your Lordship uneasiness on the present occasion it should be discontinued.

I do not suspect any intention in Sindia or his ministers to form any connection with Tippoo, inimical to the Company or its allies, but I am apprehensive that they wish to encourage his expectation of their good offices, in some shape or other, with a view to obtain money from him, and of course will not readily desist from correspondence with him, either secret or open.

I endeavoured to learn from Abba Chitnavees the precise time fixed for Sindia's departure, but he could not name the day, though he assured me that it would be very soon. I have no reason to doubt his assurances as far as depends upon his own power and influence, and I think he would not have desired my interview with Sindia unless he had confidence in the declarations which he knew, would be made to me by the latter.

A detachment of four battalions marched from Sindia's cantonments on the 24th in the direction of the retreat of the insurgents, but whether in pursuit of them, or, if that is their object, how far it will be continued, I have not yet been able to learn. It is reported that the Bhyes have received a great accession of force in cavalry, with which they intend to join Lacawa Dada.

In the conversation which my agent had with Nana Furnavees on the 21st instant, the Minister confirmed the report of Gopal Row Moonshy of the nature of his interview with Tippoo's Vakeels, but, he said, that although he had not yet been able to hold a conference with them on business he learned from Ragoo Pundit, that they deny every circumstance of the aggressions with which their master is charged towards the Company; and that in refutation of this denial, he had directed Ragho Pundit to state the proofs which your Lordship had transmitted to the Peishwa. Nana again promised to hear and discuss their proposals and give them their dismissal as early as possible, and urged his indisposition and the pressing necessity of removing Sindia, as the unavoidable causes of the delay which had already taken place. But I am still apprehensive that both the Paishwa and the Minister will protract the departure of the Vakeels, in hopes of extorting advantages from the Sultaun's desire to avert a war. I shall, however, peremptorily require their immediate dismissal, when I have an interview with the Paishwa to lay before him the correspondence between your Lordship and Tippoo, of which I have just received copies from Mr Edmonstone.

On Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien's observing to the Minister the slender appearance of troops at the Paishwa's standard, Nana answered, that he would soon see a considerable augmentation of them, and when the Moonshy expressed some distrust of this assurance, Nana repeated it confidently, but without explaining the means by which the augmentation

was to be effected, and as if he had some reliance, which he did not think proper to disclose. He spoke of the orders sent to Pursaram Bhow, as mentioned in my last address, without expressing any doubt of their being obeyed. I am willing to hope that the decided manner in which he treated this subject, is in consequence of his having securely concerted measures with Abba Chitnawees for the retreat of Sindia, whose presence, I believe, to be the only considerable impediment to the assembly of the force of the State.

I have not yet received any advices from Bombay in consequence of your Lordship's resolution to furnish a detachment from that establishment. But it is probable that they will arrive before my interview with him takes place.

The Paishwa has at length given me permission to establish dawk stations on the route of our correspondence through his dominions, and I have also the satisfaction to inform your Lordship that I have experienced his more ready acquiescence in my purchase of drought cattle, and the hire of porters for the service of the Bombay army.

No. 192—Tipu Sultan in a friendly letter contradicts the report of any hostile intention on his part towards the Company.

FROM—TIPU SULTAUN,

TO—EARL MORNINGTON.

Dated 11th Jemaudy-Oo-Saunee (or 20th November 1798).

Received the 18th December 1798.

It has lately come to my ears from report that in consequence of the talk of interested persons, military preparations are on foot. Report is equally subject to the likelihood of being true or false. I have the fullest confidence that the present is without foundation. By the favor of God, the conditions or obligations of peace established between us have obtained the utmost degree of strength and firmness under the circumstances of their having been firmly observed and adhered to. On account of the daily increasing union and friendship and of the constant intercourse of correspondence, it (the report) cannot possibly be entitled to credit, but the promulgation of such reports excites my surprize. My friendly pen writes this. I hope your Lordship will be pleased to gratify me by writing of it. From a desire to maintain the obligations of treaty and engagement, I have no other intention or thought than to give increase

to friendship, and my friendly heart is to the last degree bent on endeavours to confirm and strengthen the foundations of harmony and union.

Let your Lordship always continue to gratify me by gladdening letters notifying your welfare

No. 193—Tipu in this letter avows his firm resolution to conform to the treaties and engagements subsisting between the allies and himself and to the dictates of peace and friendship.

FROM—TIPU SULTAUN,

TO—EARL MORNINGTON.

*Received at Fort St. George,
the 28th December 1798*

I have been made happy by the receipt of your Lordship's two friendly letters, the contents of which, I clearly comprehend (*vide* those written 4th and 8th November).

The particulars which your Lordship has communicated to me, relative to the victory obtained by the English fleet over that of the French near the shores of Egypt, nine of their ships having been captured and two burned, in one of which of the latter was their Admiral, have given me more pleasure than can possibly be conveyed by writing. Indeed I possess the firmest hope that the leaders of the English and the Company Bahadur who ever adhere to the paths of sincerity, friendship and good faith, and are the well-wishers of mankind, will at all times be successful and victorious and that the French who are of a crooked disposition, faithless, and the enemies of mankind, may be ever distressed and ruined. Your Lordship has written to me with the pen of friendship that in no age or country were the baneful and insidious arts of intrigue, ever cultivated with such success as they are at present by the French nation. Would to God that no impression had been made on my mind by that dangerous people, but that your Lordship's situation enables you to know that they have reached my presence, and have endeavoured to prevent the wisdom of my councils, and to instigate me to war against those who have given me no provocation. That it is impossible I should suppose your Lordship ignorant of the intercourse which subsists between me and the French, whom I know to be the inveterate enemies of the Company, and to be engaged in an unjust war with the British nation, and that I cannot imagine your Lordship indifferent to the transactions which have passed between me and the enemies of the English

In this Sircar (the gift of God) there is a mercantile tribe who employ themselves in trading by sea and land; their agents purchased a two-masted vessel, and having loaded her with rice, departed with the view to traffic. It happened that she went to Mauritius, from whence forty persons, French, and a dark-colour, of whom ten or twelve were artificers, and the rest servants, paying the hire of the ship came here in search of employment. Such as chose to take service were entertained, and the remainder departed beyond the confines of the Sircar (the gift of God), and the French who are full of vice and deceit, have perhaps taken advantage of the departure of the ship to put about reports with the view to ruffle the minds of both Sircars.

It is the wish of my heart and my constant endeavour to observe and maintain the articles of the agreement of peace, and to perpetuate and strengthen the basis of friendship and union with the Sircar of the Company Bahauder, and with the Sircars of the Maha Rajah Saheb Sereemunt Bahauder, and His Highness the Nabob Asuph Jah Bahauder, and I am resident at home, at times taking the air, and at others amusing myself with hunting at a spot which is used as a pleasure ground. In this case, the allusion to "War" in your friendly letter, and the following passage, namely, that prudence required that both the Company and their allies should adopt certain measures of precaution and self-defence, have given me the greatest surprize.

It was further written by your friendly pen that "as your Lordship is desirous of communicating to me on behalf of the Company and their allies, a plan calculated to promote mutual security and welfare of all parties Your Lordship proposes to depute to me for the purpose Major Doveton, who formerly waited upon me, and who will explain to me more fully and particularly, the sole means which appear to your Lordship and the allies to be effectual for the salutary purpose of removing all existing distrust and suspicion, and of establishing peace and good understanding on the most durable foundations; that therefore your Lordship trusts I will let you know at what time and place it will be convenient to me to receive Major Doveton". It has been understood.

By the blessing of the Almighty, at the conclusion of the peace the treaties and engagements entered into among the four Sircars were so firmly established and confirmed as ever to remain fixed and durable, and be an example to the rulers of the age; nor are they, nor will they ever be liable to interruption. I cannot imagine that means more effectual than these can be adopted for giving stability to the foundations of friendship and harmony, promoting the security of states, or the welfare and advantage of both parties.

In the view of those who inspect narrowly into the nature of friendship, peace and amity are the first of all subjects, as, indeed, your Lordship has yourself written to me that the allied Sircars look to no other object

than the security and tranquillity of their own dominions, and the ease and comfort of their subjects "Praise be to God, that the sum of my views, and the wish of my heart, are limited to these same points. On such grounds, then, a just and permanent observance of existing treaties is necessary, and these by the favour of God daily acquire new strength and improvement by means of amicable correspondence Your Lordship is a great Sardar, a firm friend, and a rectifier of all things, and you possess an enlightened judgment. I have the strongest hope that the minds of the wise and intelligent, but particularly of the four States, will not be sullied by doubts and jealousies, but will consider me from my heart desirous of harmony and friendship.

Continue to allow me the pleasure of your correspondence, making me happy by accounts of your health

What more shall be written?*

No. 194—The Governor General sends a manifesto to Tipu Sultan in Persian translation, announcing the declaration of war by the Ottoman Porte against the French

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—TIPPOO SULTAUN.

Written, 9th January 1799.

In addition to my letter of this date, it has occurred to me to transmit, for Your Highness's notice, a Persian translation of the manifesto which accompanied the declaration of war made by the Ottoman Porte against the French, in consequence of their unprovoked invasion of Egypt; as being a paper of importance in as much as it develops with truth and accuracy the atrocious views and faithless conduct of the French, not only towards other nations in general, but even, when it serves their own ambitious purposes, towards those with whom they are connected by the strongest ties of friendship and alliance, and as it shows the grounds upon which the Ottoman Porte has been compelled to declare war against them. I shall only add that the original of the paper in question, has been circulated throughout Europe, and published in all the gazettes both there and in India †

* In reply to this the Governor General wrote a strong letter on 9th January 1799—Martin Vol I, p 394, which the student should read with advantage

† This letter is not printed by Martin

No. 195—The Governor General explains to the Peshwa why he sent an ultimatum to Tipu Sultan on his own initiative, without first consulting the allies. The vigour of the Governor General's conduct is noticeable.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE PESHWA.

Written, 13th January 1799.

I have been informed by Colonel Palmer, that at a conference which he held lately with Ballajee Pundit, at which Gopaul Row was present, the latter took an opportunity to state on your part, that you expected from my intimations of concerting the time and manner of making the demand of satisfaction and security which the allies require from Tippoo Sultaun for his late violation of treaty, that the application to Tippoo Sultaun would have been made in a joint letter from the three allies.

Although I trust Colonel Palmer's explanation will have removed any doubts which you may have entertained on this subject, yet desirous of manifesting my disposition to act upon all occasions in which the combined interests of the allies may be concerned, with the utmost degree of candour and justice towards them, I have thought it advisable to address a few lines to you, for the purpose of explaining more particularly the causes which induced me to despatch the letter to Tippoo Sultaun immediately from myself, without first communicating the proposed draft of it to the allies.

Both you and His Highness the Nizam had long before been duly apprized of all the circumstances of Tippoo Sultaun's conduct towards the English, and you had respectively admitted the necessity of demanding satisfaction. You had also delivered to the Residents at your respective Courts, drafts of a letter which you proposed to be written to Tippoo Sultaun for that purpose; and you had intimated your determination in conformity to the defensive engagements subsisting with the Company, to enforce the demand of satisfaction by resorting to arms in the last extremity. Under these circumstances, it remained for this Government, as the party more immediately aggrieved, to state to the Sultaun the grounds of complaint against him, and to intimate to him, in the joint names of the allies, the resolutions which had been thus adopted by the three states; this intimation I accordingly communicated to the Sultaun. The address to him was therefore substantially the act of the three allied Powers. For the sentiments and determination which you and His Highness the Nizam had communicated to me, authorized me to make the demand on Tippoo Sultaun without further reference to you. Still, however, I should

have been glad to obtain your declared concurrence, in the terms, as well as the matter, of my address to Tippoo Sultaun. If I had withholden the demand until either a joint letter could be prepared, or the concurrence of the allies be made known to me, not less than a month and a half, and probably even a longer period, would have passed away in the observance of a mere form (the letter being written in the name of the allies, and they having previously concerted the substance of it) at a season when every day was of importance.

With respect to the mode of addressing Tippoo Sultaun, you will find that it was agreeable to the established precedent on former occasions of intercourse between the allies and the Sultaun. For these reasons I have no doubt that you will be of opinion, that I judged properly in dispatching the letter in the manner I did; I am happy to find that the contents of the letter met your approbation.

Colonel Palmer will communicate to you a copy of Tippoo Sultaun's reply to my letter of the 8th November. You will remark the prevarication and duplicity of the Sultaun's statement of his intercourse with the French, and the inconsistency between his declarations and his conduct, and your discerning mind will neither be deceived by the invectives which the Sultaun now utters against the nation with which he has publicly and notoriously concluded offensive and defensive engagements against the English and their allies, nor by the Sultaun's praise of the public faith, moderation and justice of the British nation, against which he has employed every effort to raise enemies in every quarter of India. Your wisdom will also remark the artifice by which Tippoo Sultaun has eluded the amicable advance of the allies in the proposed mission of Major Doveton, by stating that he cannot imagine means more effectual for giving stability to the foundations of friendship and harmony, and for promoting the security and welfare of all parties and engagements among the four States, thus endeavouring to evade the manifest proofs which his own conduct has afforded of his utter inefficacy of those means to maintain tranquillity and friendship, to restrain his own resentment and ambition. From these artifices and subterfuges it is to be apprehended, that Tippoo Sultaun has determined to deny that satisfaction and to withhold that security which his conduct has compelled the allies to require. However it is my earnest wish, even now, to avoid extremities, and with that view I propose not to close the channel of amicable negotiation, as long as a ray of hope shall remain, that a peaceable adjustment of affairs can be obtained. I have therefore addressed another letter to Tippoo Sultaun in reply to his, of which a copy will also be communicated to you by the Resident, but I will not relax in the smallest degree my preparations for war, and on the same principle, I trust that you will adopt the most vigorous measures to enable your troops to take the field immediately, and rely with confidence on your exertions to

fulfil your defensive engagements, and to afford effectual co-operation in the probable event of war.

No. 196—The Governor General calls upon the Peshwa to depute a confidential person to meet him at Madras, in order to concert with him prompt and vigorous measures in case of a war with Tipu. The letter shows how the Peshwa was circumvented.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE PAISHWA.

Written, 15th January 1799.

I have already afforded you ample testimony of my anxiety to obtain the concurrence of the allies in every measure which Tippoo Sultaun's late violation of the treaty of peace has rendered necessary for the common cause. In my letter dated the day before yesterday, I have fully explained to you my motives for applying to Tippoo Sultaun in the mode which I have pursued, and I have proved that my several letters to that prince *were substantially founded in the declared sentiments of the Nizam* and of Your Highness, communicated to me through the British Residents at the two Courts.

In order to obviate all difficulties which might arise, I beg leave, during the further progress of the negociation, to propose that Your Highness should immediately dispatch an intelligent and confidential person to Madras, with whom I may personally communicate upon all subjects affecting the general interests of the triple alliance, during the present unsettled state of affairs between the allies and Tippoo Sultaun. This person should be authorized by Your Highness to signify your wishes to me with respect to such circumstances as may occur. If Your Highness should think it advisable to agree to this friendly proposal, you may be assured that I shall communicate with the person whom you may send to me, with the utmost confidence and freedom, and that I shall receive his representations and remarks with the greatest attention. On the other hand, if Your Highness should deem the proposed measure unnecessary, I shall conclude that you will, without any further hesitation or objection, unite with the Nizam and me to promote all such steps as appear to be necessary *either for the effectual prosecution of the war, or for the secure establishment of the peace with Tippoo Sultaun.* Your Highness must be aware, that great delay must attend the previous communication to each of the Courts of every point which shall demand

decision in the progress of our discussions with the Sultaun I therefore rely on your wisdom and friendship that you will send an ambassador immediately, who can constantly act in Your Highness's name on the spot, or that you will entrust me as your friend and ally, with the conduct of the combined interests of the three Courts I expect your friendly answer without delay.

No. 197—The following is a communication from the Sultan of Constantinople advising Tipu to renounce his friendship and connection with the French.

Letter from Sultaun Selime to the Indian Sovereign Tippoo Sultaun, dated Constantinople *20th September 1798*, delivered to Mr Spencer Smith, His Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, etc.

We take this opportunity to acquaint Your Majesty, when the French Republic was engaged in a war with most of the Powers in Europe, within this latter period, our Sublime Porte not only took no part against them, but regardful of the ancient amity existing with that nation, adopted a system of the strictest neutrality, and shewed them even such acts of countenance, as have given rise to complaints on the part of the other Courts

Thus friendly disposed towards them and reposing a confidence in those sentiments of friendship which they appeared to profess for us, we gave no ear to many propositions and advantageous offers which had been made to us, to side with the belligerent Powers, but pursuant to our maxims of moderation and justice, we abstained from breaking with them without a direct motive, and firmly observed the line of neutrality, all which is notorious to the world

In this posture of things, when the French having witnessed the greatest marks of attention from our sublime Porte, a perfect reciprocity was naturally expected on their side, when no cause existed to interrupt the continuance of the peace betwixt the two nations, they, all of a sudden, have exhibited the unprovoked and treacherous proceedings, of which the following is a sketch.

They began to prepare a fleet in one of their harbours called Toulon, with most extraordinary mystery, and when completely fitted out and ready for sea, embarked a large body of troops, and they put also on board several people versed in the Arabic language and who had been in Egypt before They gave the command of that armament to one of their generals named Bounaparte, who first went to the island of Malta, of which he took possession, and thence proceeded direct for Alexandria, where being arrived the 17th of Muharam, all of a sudden landed his

troops, and entered the town by open force, publishing soon after manifestos in Arabic among the different tribes, stating in substance, that the object of their enterprize was not to declare war against Ottoman Porte, but to attack the Beys of Egypt for insults and injuries which they had committed against the French merchants in time past; that peace with the Ottoman Empire was permanent, that those of the Arabs who should join, would meet with the best treatment, but such as shewed opposition, should suffer death; with this further insinuation made in different quarters, but more particularly to certain Courts at amity with us, that the expedition against the Beys was with the privity and consent of our sublime Porte, which is a horrible falsity. After this they also took possession of Rosetta, not hesitating to engage in a pitched battle with the Ottoman troops, who had been detached from Cairo to assist the invaded.

It is a standing law amongst all nations not to encroach upon each others' territories, whilst they are supposed to be at peace. When any such events take place as lead to a rupture, the motives so tending are previously made known between the parties, nor are any open aggressions attempted against their respective dominions until a formal declaration of war takes place.

Whilst, therefore, no interruption of the peace, not the smallest symptom of misunderstanding appeared between our sublime Porte and the French Republic, a conduct so audacious, so unprovoked, and so deceitfully sudden on their part, is an undeniable trait of the most extreme insult and treachery.

The province of Egypt is considered as a region of general veneration from the immediate proximity of the noble City of Mecca, the Keblah of the Mussulmans (the point of the compass to which all Turks turn their face in performing their prayers), and of the sacred town of Medina where the tomb of our blessed Prophet is fixed, the inhabitants of both these sacred cities deriving from thence their subsistence.

Independent of this, it has been actually discovered from several letters which have been intercepted, that the further project of the French is to divide Arabia into various republics, to attack the whole Muhomedan sect in its religion and country, and by a gradual progress, to extirpate all Mussulmans from the face of the earth.

It is for these cogent motives and considerations that we have determined to repel this enemy, and to adopt every vigorous measure against these persecutors of the Faith, we placing all confidence in the Omnipotent God, the source of all succour, and in the intercession of him, who is the glory of Prophets.

Now it being certain that in addition to the general ties of religion, the bonds of amity and good intelligence have ever been firm and

permanent with Your Majesty, so justly famed for your zeal and attachment for our Faith, and that more than once such public acts of friendly attention have been practised between us, as to have cemented the connexion subsisting between the two countries. We therefore sincerely hope, from Your Majesty's dignified disposition, that you will not refuse entering into concert with us, and giving our Sublime Porte every possible assistance by such an exertion of zeal as your firmness and natural attachment to such a cause cannot fail to excite.

We understand, that in consequence of certain secret intrigues carried on by the French in India (after their accustomed system) in order to destroy the settlements, and to show dissensions in the provinces of the English there, a secret connection is expected to take effect between them and Your Majesty, for whose service they are to send over a corps of troops by the way of Egypt.

We are persuaded, that the tendency of the French plans cannot in the present day escape Your Majesty's penetration and notice, and that no manner of regard would be paid to their deceitful insinuations on your side and whereas the Court of Great Britain is actually at war with them, and our Sublime Porte engaged on the other hand in repelling their aggressions, consequently the French are enemies to both, and such a reciprocity of interests must exist between those Courts, as ought to make both parties eager to afford mutual succour which a common cause requires.

It is notorious that the French bent upon the overthrow of all sects of religions, have invented a new doctrine, under the name of liberty, they themselves professing no other belief but that of Dehner (Epicureans, or Pythagoreans) that they have not even spared the territories of the Pope of Rome,* a country since time immemorial held in great reverence by all the European nations, that they have wrested and shared with others the whole Venetian State, notwithstanding that fellow republic had not only abstained from taking part with them, but had rendered them service, during the course of the war, thus effacing the name of the Republic of Venice from the annals of history.

There is no doubt that their present attempts against the Ottomans, as well as their ulterior designs (dictated by their avaricious views towards oriental riches), tend to make a general conquest of that country (which, may God never suffer to take effect) and expel every Mussulman from it under pretence of annoying the English. Their end is to be once admitted into India, and then to develop what really lies in their hearts, just as they have done in every place, where they have been able to acquire a footing.

In a word they are a nation whose deceitful intrigues and perfidious pursuits know no bounds; they are intent on nothing but depriving people of their lives and properties and on persecuting religion wherever their arms can reach.

Upon all this therefore coming to Your Majesty's knowledge, it is sincerely hoped that you will not refuse every needful exertion towards assisting your brethren Mussulmans, according to the obligations of religion and towards defending Hindostan itself against the effect of French machinations. Should it be true, as we hear, that an intimate connection has taken place between your Court and that nation, we hope that by weighing present circumstances, as well as every future inconvenience which would result from such a measure, Your Majesty will beware against it; and in the event of your having harboured any idea of joining with them or of moving against Great Britain, you will lay such resolution aside. We make it our especial request that Your Majesty will please to refrain from entering into any measures against the English, or lending any compliant ear to the French. Should there exist any subject of complaint with the former, please to communicate it, certain as it may be of the employment of every good office on our side to compromise the same. We wish to see the connection above alluded to exchange in favour of Great Britain.

We confidently expect, that upon consideration of all that is stated in this communication and of the necessity of your assisting your brethren Mussulmans in the general cause of religion, as well as of co-operating towards the above precious province being delivered from the hands of the enemy, Your Majesty will employ every means which your natural zeal will point out, to assist the common cause and to corroborate by that means the ancient good understanding so happily existing between our empires.

No. 198—Mr. Cherry informs Palmer that every respect and attention were shown to the pilgrims visiting Benares and that no indignity was committed towards Antaji Shet.

FROM—G. F. CHERRY, RESIDENT, BENARES,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Benares, 10th January 1799.

Sir,

I beg leave to trouble you with the copy of a letter addressed to me by Untajee Seet, and of my answer to it.

The unremitting pains which I have taken to facilitate the religious ceremonies of the Mahratta pilgrims who have this year visited Benares and Guya, and the satisfaction which they have generally expressed at their reception and treatment induce me to transmit this correspondence

to you, that the disposition so evidently displayed by Untajee Seet may not, on an erroneous statement, defeat the purpose for which Government uniformly direct a consistent civility and attention to be paid to the subjects of the Mahratta State who may visit the Company's territories, and that you may explain in a satisfactory manner, such points as may be submitted to you by the Government of Poona in consequence of his representations

The circumstance which has given rise to the letter from Untajee Seet, is the objection to permit the pilgrims who accompany him to be searched by the officers of the Custom-House at Benares, on the plea that it is derogatory to his own consequence. It is unnecessary for me to offer you any arguments in opposition to this plea, and I am not disposed to attribute to him any improper motive in urging it. I feel it, however, incumbent on me to observe that no unbecoming conduct is adduced against the officers of the Customs, and I am confident that none will occur on their part under the prudent superintendence of his department by the Custom-Master. I conceive that the comparison drawn by Untajee Seet between himself and Hybut Row is unjust, after the attentions and civilities which have been paid him, and in explanation of it I beg leave to inform you that the Right Honourable the Governor General thought proper to direct, through the Persian Translator, that Hybut Row be treated with every possible attention. In consequence of which I addressed the Custom-Master on Hybut Row's departure, stating the instructions from His Lordship, and requesting that in the search of the Custom-House Officers the spirit of them might be attended to. I am not aware that he was exempted from the search, but a person was particularly deputed to make it. Had similar instructions been sent me in behalf of Untajee Seet, the same compliment would have been paid to him, but the regulations for the Custom-House do not authorize me to suspend their functions

No. 199—The Governor General declines to instruct Col Collins to join Ambaji Ingle as requested by Daulatrao Sindia.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—DOWLUT ROW SINDIA.

Written, 22nd January 1799.

I am favoured with your letter in reply to mine (*vide* that received 27th December 1798) with regard to your request, that I will give instructions to Colonel Collins to join Rajah Ambajee for the purpose

of concerting measures to stop the progress of disturbances in the westward.

My friend, I long ago apprized you of the probability of these disturbances, and signified my readiness to open a negotiation with the view of concerting a plan for the common defence of your country and that of His Excellency the Vizier, as soon as you should return from Poona, where your continuance not only endangered the security of your dominions in the north of Hindostan, but in a great measure prevented the Company's allies from fulfilling their defensive engagements against the late aggression of Tippoo Sultaun. Colonel Palmer by my directions has repeatedly pressed this important subject on your attention. But your residence at Poona having been protracted to this time to my concern, and to the prejudice of your own interests and those of the Company and their allies, the plan which I proposed has been suspended, and I have been under the necessity of employing the Company's troops solely for the defence of the Nabob Vizier's dominions.

Whenever you shall return to assist in the protection of your own dominions, you may rely on my cordial co-operation, and you may be assured that I will fulfil the friendly promises which I have made to you through Colonel Palmer. But you cannot expect that I should take charge of the defence of your territories, whilst you remain at a distance from them, and whilst you apply the greater part of your military force to objects inconsistent with the prosperity of the Company and its allies.

Colonel Collins therefore cannot at present join Rajah Ambajee. The Colonel has already informed Rajah Ambajee of my sentiments upon this subject.

No. 200—The Resident reports his interview with Nana Fadnis on the subject of the Peshwa's co-operation with the British in the war with Tipu.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 4th February 1799.

My Lord,

I waited on the Minister on the evening of the 2nd as he had appointed, and found him attended by Moonshy Gopal Row, and Narroo Punt Chukerdeo, his confidential agent with the Paishwa. I carried with me the copies of the Grand Seignior's letter to Tippoo Sultaun, and

of your Lordship's which accompanied it, intending to have had them read while I was present, for the purpose of explanation, if any should be required, but Nana observing them to be of considerable length, desired me to leave them with him for his perusal when more at leisure, and to proceed to what I had to propose. I therefore began the conversation with reminding him of the state of the dispute between the allies and Tippoo, as described in your Lordship's correspondence already before the Paishwa, and in consequence of which, the troops of the Company and of the Nazim were already completely prepared to commence hostilities if war should be unavoidable, while this Government had apparently made no substantial preparation to co-operate with the allies. I entertained no doubt, I said, of the Paishwa's sincere disposition to fulfil his defensive engagements, but as it was highly expedient that your Lordship should now be able to ascertain what reliance might be placed on his ability to engage in the war, either at commencement or at any other period of it, I trusted that he would give me the necessary information.

The Minister in answer observed to me, that I was a witness to the embarrassments under which this Government had long laboured and still labours, and to these alone must be attributed the slow progress which had hitherto been made in assembling the Paishwa's contingent; that he was so intent upon effecting this object, as to have enjoined Pursaram Bhow to avoid entering into a contest with the Rajah of Koulapore, that he might reserve his force unbroken on the frontier of Tippoo's dominions, and be ready to invade them when required, that this force might be relied on for the service of the common cause unless actually attacked by the army of Koulapore, and the appearance of a speedy termination of internal dissensions afforded reasonable expectation of seeing the quotas of the other Jagheerdars repair to the Peshwa's standard. When I expressed some apprehension of the Minister being rather sanguine on this head, he said I should soon be convinced that he was not, but did not disclose any particular circumstance on which his confidence was founded.

I next represented to Nana the uneasiness which Your Lordship would feel at the unnecessary detention of Tippoo's Vakeels, which was not only incompatible with the relations of alliance and interests between the two Governments, but must be prejudicial to the negotiations which Your Lordship has proposed to enter into with the Sultaun, for the common advantage and security, as his ambassadors so long as they are permitted to remain here, will encourage him to resist your Lordship's demands by the expectation of this Court's interposition (whether promised or not) to mitigate them, I hope he would authorize me to signify to Your Lordship, that they should be immediately dismissed.

The Minister assured me that there was no intention to detain the Vakeels here after the Paishwa's answer could be given to them, which

was yet retarded by his indisposition. He then recapitulated all that I have before related to your Lordship, of the defence of their master's conduct, and to which he added that they seemed principally to rest it upon the want of such proof as is never to be obtained in similar transactions, the production of a treaty with the French formally executed under the Sultaun's seal.

Upon desiring to know the Paishwa's answer to your Lordship's tender of a detachment equal to that employed in his service during the late war, and stating the advantages which would accrue to the common cause (whether negotiation or hostilities should ensue) by the early appearance of military concert, the Minister turned to Naroo Punt and in a low voice, asked him, whether he should then desire me to call for the troops; Naroo Punt answered, that it would be proper to speak once more to the Paishwa on the subject before the requisition should be made. Of this circumstance, I was informed after the conference by Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien, I could not myself hear what was said. Nana then said, that the Paishwa had not given a decided answer, but in two days at farthest I should receive it. He immediately after this reverted to your Lordship's propositions for a larger subsidiary force and asked, if it could not yet be obtained at the same rate of subsidy, as your Lordship's indulgence had granted for the detachment now offered. I told him that I was certain no change had taken place in your Lordship's disposition to support the authority of the Paishwa and to promote the welfare of the Mahratta empire. But I was apprehensive that the force which could have been spared at the time the offer was made, was now unavoidably destined to other services. I would, however, inform your Lordship of the Paishwa's wishes. But supposing that the plan of operations settled for the campaign would admit of an extension of subsidiary aid to the Paishwa, I would by no means encourage him to expect any remission in the rate of subsidy which had been fixed for the troops serving with the Nazim, although I was persuaded of your Lordship's desire to shew every proper consideration for the circumstances of this State. I do not, however, understand that more is meant by this proposition than that the Paishwa shall have an option of requiring an augmentation of the Company's troops in his service at any time when he may judge it expedient for his own affairs.

The Minister informed me, that the Paishwa would appoint a person of distinction and suitable talents for the office, to attend your Lordship as his Vakeel at Fort St. George, but had not yet made his choice.

From the whole tenor of the Minister's discourse, as well as from particular assertions, and known occurrences, I am persuaded that the Paishwa really desires to fulfil his defensive engagements and liberally, should hostilities be unavoidable, and that he is making every effort for this purpose, which the feeble state of his authority and the distractions

in the empire will admit. But doubtful of his ability to engage in the war with any proportionate respectability to his allies, he wishes to promote accommodation and hopes also to derive some peculiar advantage from persuading the Sultaun that he is occupied in obtaining it.

Sindia is in the same position in which he has been in for 16 days past, with little appearance of changing it, though Abba Chitnawees asserts that he will march to Corygaon, distant about 8 coss from Poona in a few days. That minister informs me that he has put a stop to all intercourse between Dowlut Row and Tippoo, and has prohibited the agent of the latter entering the camp.

The Paishwa's disorder, a quadridiem fever, continues and was, yesterday very violent. Nana Furnavees at my interview with him, did not appear to be so much exhausted by his complaint, as from report I expected to find him.

No. 201—The Resident informs the Governor General of his inability to secure an audience of the Peshwa and Nana, and of the movement of Parasharam Bhau towards Savnur in order to join the campaign against Tipu.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 28th February 1799.

My Lord,

Having requested an audience of the Paishwa in order to lay before him the correspondence between your Lordship and Tippoo Sultaun, he excused himself on account of indisposition, having a slight attack of fever, and desired that any communication which I might have to make to him might be made to Nana Furnavees. The Minister is also still indisposed, and the intervention of a visit to him from Kaushi Row Holkar and an appointment of an interview yesterday with Tippoo's Vakeels (which, however, did not take place) has prevented his fixing a day for my waiting upon him.

I have this day received from Mr. Edmonstone your Lordship's letters to the Paishwa and his Minister, explaining the motives and usage of the mode which your Lordship adopted in demanding satisfaction and security of Tippoo, and to request that an ambassador from the Paishwa may be appointed to reside with you at Madras. These letters, I have desired Gopal Row to deliver immediately, and to repeat my request of the earliest possible audience, at which I hope to obtain satisfactory

assurances on this and every other point of your Lordship's requisitions and recommendations, as far as the actual ability of this State will admit.

I regret that I have not yet received the information from Bombay requisite to my announcing to the Paishwa your Lordship's tender of a detachment from that establishment, as I am persuaded that the offer will encourage and accelerate his efforts to co-operate with his allies.

I am informed by the Nazim's Vakeel at this Durbar, that Pursaram Bhow has declined to attack the Rajah of Koulapore, though much superior in force, and has assigned as his reason for it his apprehension of being involved in a contest which might totally divert his force from the proposed service against Tippoo. He has in consequence advanced to Shanoor, and his conduct has been approved of by the Durbar, which has directed him to remain in his present position, and has proposed an amicable accommodation with the Rajah of Koulapore, that the dispute may not interrupt or weaken its force intended to act against the Sultaun.

Abba Chitnawees has engaged unreservedly in the principal management of Sindia's affairs, and exerts his power and influence to facilitate the return of that chief to Hindostan. He has lately had frequent conferences with Nana Furnawees for this purpose, and, as I understand engages to execute it, if Nana will advance, before the army moves, the Kist which he has engaged to pay to Sindia on his arrival at Jaumgaum, and there is little doubt that the Minister's confidence in Abba will induce him to comply with this demand.

No. 202—The Resident explains the attitude of the Peshwa, Nana and Sindia towards Tipu Sultan and gives a clear account of the situation at Poona. He reports Nana Fadnis's health to be failing. The letter shows how Bajirao's affairs were declining.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 1st February 1799.

My Lord,

On the 29th Moonshy Shunker Row, the brother of Gopal Row, came to me in the name of Nana Furnavees, and apologized for the Minister's not having appointed a time to receive the visit, which I had proposed to make him, by the severity of his disorder, and the intrusion of Kaushi Row Holkar; and to relate the conversation which had passed the preceding evening between Nana and Tippoo's Vakeels, which as Shunker

Row reported it, was both in words and substance the same as that which, I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my address of the 25th instant, had passed between the Vakeels and Ragoo Pundit, the Paishwa's agent, being on their part a denial of every act of aggression with which the Sultaun was charged and of all intention to break the peace with the Company or its allies, and on the part of the Minister a refutation of their assertions and professions, by a statement of the facts which your Lordship has established

Having on the same day received private intimation from Mr. Duncan, that the detachment which your Lordship has required from the Bombay Government to join the Paishwa's forces would be ready to march in the course of 7 or 8 days, and apprehending that much valuable time might be lost by waiting for formal advice to make the communication to the Paishwa, I immediately applied to the Minister for an audience either for myself or my agent, and Nana in consequence desired to see Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien that evening.

The Minister received the intelligence of your Lordship's offer to supply the force as suggested in his presence by Gopal Row, with the greatest satisfaction, and said he would directly communicate it to the Paishwa, and as Fukeer-ul-Dien intimated the necessity, in point of time, of pressing for an immediate answer, Nana said, that he was fully sensible of it, but had to lament on this and every other measure of importance, the unexampled irresolution and procrastination of Bajy Row, who in every instance of arrangement and preparation made in conformity to his own resolutions and orders, hesitated and delayed execution for ten, twelve or fifteen days, without any change of circumstances, or assigning any reason for his indecision. The Minister reminded Fukeer-ul-Dien that when he possessed real power in the administration of this State, he had faithfully performed every engagement entered into with the Company. His disposition, he said, in the present conjecture was the same, but his authority and influence were very different. Such as they were, however, they should be exerted to the utmost, for the accomplishment of the objects of the triple alliance, and for maintaining and improving the connection between the Company and the Mahratta Empire.

Nana Furnawees repeated to my agent the conversation which he had had with the Mysore Vakeels, without any substantial variation, and with only the addition of their having described their master as in a state of the utmost despondency, under the apprehension of an attack from the confederate Powers. They have not yet made any formal propositions, but their principal purpose is obviously to engage the good offices of this Court towards an accommodation with your Lordship, and which it is probable they will be encouraged to expect

Pursaram Bhow, the Minister says, is at Kittoor, and not at Shanoor as I was informed by the Nazim's Vakeel, but the other circumstances of the information concerning that officer, as mentioned in my last address, the Minister confirmed. The Bhow is still in a position to create alarm on Tippoo's northern frontier, if his force is so considerable as is reported.

Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien enquired of Nana the probability of Sindia's moving. He said that he had received great encouragement from Abba Chitnawees to expect it soon, and on that he could rely to the extent of Abba's power to promote the object.

I am much concerned to inform your Lordship that Nana Furnawees is not only severely, but in my opinion, dangerously indisposed. Besides the continuance of a tertian fever, he has a frequent discharge of blood from his lungs, and he is so feeble as to be unable to sit up without support. These circumstances, with his advanced time of life, and the unskillfulness of Hindoo physicians, make me very apprehensive for his life. His death would, I fear, dissolve the harmony which he has re-established between the Paishwa and Sindia, and destroy the confidence which the respectability of his character has in some degree renewed in the stability and equity of Bajy Row's government, and consequently produce a renewal of those disorders from which the State is beginning to recover. The Paishwa also continues ill.

Gunput Roy having waited upon Abba Chitnawees by my direction, to enquire into the progress made towards Sindia's final departure since my interview with him, and to report my representations on the subject of his intercourse with Tippoo, the Minister desired Gunput Roy to inform me that his brother Gopal Row was deputed by Sindia, and Bujaba Seroolkar by the Paishwa, to proceed with a strong detachment of horse and foot in pursuit of the Bhyes, but with instructions to propose reconciliation in the first instance. If this should be rejected, those officers were to reduce the insurgents by force, and for that purpose to pursue them wherever they might retreat. That the Nazim and other powers of the Deccan having refused them an asylum, they could only retire to Hindostan, and either in that case, or, in the event of a reconciliation, Sindia would immediately proceed thither. With respect to Sindia's intercourse with Tippoo, Abba assured Gunput Roy, that the Vakeel deputed to that Prince by Serjajee Ghatkey on his own authority, was on his return without having succeeded in his mission, whatever the objects of it may have been; and that neither Sindia nor himself have once seen the agent from Tippoo since his introductory visit. But he does not know whether he may not have had some intercourse with Bhow Bukshy. Abba desired that I would be perfectly easy on this subject, for so long as he should retain any authority or influence in Sindia's government, it should be conducted with equal

regard to the views and interests of the Company, as that shown by the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees, and perhaps with greater. Bhow Bukshy, who is a party in opposition to Abba, has desired permission to proceed on a pilgrimage to Benares, but has been refused

Hircarrahs whom I sent to learn the strength and situation of the Rajah of Koulapore's army, are returned, and report his force to consist of near 30,000 men, with 8 pieces of cannon. He was posted at Saundatty, within 20 coss of Pursaram Bhow, and his troops occupied in ravaging the possessions of that Chief and of the Paishwa. Whether his depredations will be disregarded, or they will divert the attention of the Bhow from the invasion of Tippoo's dominions, will be known on the return of the messenger who carried to him the Kellaat from the Paishwa. The people whom I sent for intelligence to the camps of Pursaram Bhow and Doondia Punt Gokla, are not yet returned

It escaped my recollection to mention in its proper place, that Nana Furnaweas told Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien he would desire to see me as soon as he was informed of the Paishwa's sentiments on his conversation with Tippoo's Vakeels, which he had already reported, and on your Lordship's offer of a detachment of the Company's troops to join the contingent of this State. I have just now received notice from Gopal Row that the Minister has appointed tomorrow evening for receiving my visit.

No. 203—Palmer intimates to the Governor General the Peshwa's consent to call a British detachment to join his force against Tipu Sultan. Other items of news from the Poona Court are also enumerated

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 8th February 1799

The Paishwa sent Moonshy Shunker Row to me on the 6th, to signify his acceptance of your Lordship's tender of a detachment of the Company's troops from Bombay to form a junction with his forces appointed to act against Tippoo Sultaun, and to propose a mode of discharging the subsidy by Tuncah or assignment on the Vakeel of Gobind Row Guicwar, Soubahdar of Guzerat, stationed at this Court

I told the Moonshy that I had no objection to this proposal, as it was a matter of indifference by whom the subsidy was to be paid, provided the payment was made secure and punctual, but the responsibility of both would ultimately rest on the Paishwa and his Minister.

Shunker Row said on the article of responsibility, it might unavoidably happen that a month's arrears would be incurred, as was the case with

the last detachment ; but it was hoped that this contingency would not cancel the offer which your Lordship had made. I replied that however desirable it was for the sake of the troops that they should receive their pay as soon it became due, the delay in payment of which he was apprehensive, would be submitted to when evidently unavoidable, but it must not be protracted beyond the period of one month. I then requested of him to press the Paishwa and Minister to authorise my immediate requisition of the detachment, as its early junction with the troops of this State could not fail to promote, in a proportionate degree, the objects and interests of the allies. He promised to make his report instantly, and to return with the Paishwa's resolution the next day.

Yesterday Moonshy Gopal Row having attended a person sent to me by Emrut Row with an invitation to the wedding of his son,* I took the opportunity of reminding him of every point in suspense, and of the importance of the Paishwa's coming to an immediate determination upon them. He said that I should in a few hours be informed on the subject of the detachment, his brother having reported my conversation the day before to both the Paishwa and Nana Furnawees ; that the latter having communicated to the former his conference with Tippoo's Vakeels, at which he had told them that the disguise which they endeavoured to put upon the Sultaun's transactions with the French being completely removed by your Lordship's statement of facts, and the undesirable inferences drawn from them there was no alternative but to adopt your Lordship's proposals for an amicable negociation for just reparation and security, or to risk the consequences of a war with the Company and its allies. It only remained therefore, Gopal Row said, for the Paishwa to dismiss the Vakeels with the answer given by the Minister, but his indisposition prevents his fixing a day for that purpose. I expressed a hope that the ceremony would not be delayed a moment after the Paishwa should be able to go through it.

Although so decided an answer has been given, and no further intercourse appears to subsist between the Darbar and the Vakeels, I am afraid that their departure does not depend upon the Paishwa's inability to give them an audience of leave. I rather suspect that they have been permitted to wait for an answer to reference made to their Master ; as they dispatched Shutursewars to Surrungputtam about the beginning of this month. I could only obtain from Nana Furnavees a promise that they should be dismissed soon ; I asked if in the course of three or four days, he said not so soon as that, but it should be very soon. I shall, however, make use of the strongest remonstrances against their longer continuance, when I receive the Paishwa's requisition for the detachment.

My Hircarrahs returned from the camp of Doondia Punt Ghokla, report his force to consist of 3,000 horse, and 2,000 foot. He has been.

* Vinayak Rao born in 1792.

obliged to take shelter in the fort of Dharwar from the superiority of the the Rajah of Koulapore. This Rajah has made prisoner the killadar of Darwar, whom he surprized at a village in the district, and has summoned the killadar's son, who now commands in the fort, to surrender it, if he would procure the liberation of his father. It was understood at Darwar that Pursaram Bhow would march to the relief of Doondia Punt.

Letchmy Bhye, the adoptive mother of Sindia, and her adherents, are ravaging the country and laying the inhabitants under contribution towards the Nizam's frontier, while Sindia's detachment is unable to advance against them for want of pay.

The Paishwa has discharged his obligation to pay Sindia ten lacs of rupees before he marched to Corygaon, yet the latter is not disposed to move, or as he asserts this supply is ineffectual to the purpose, and demands to be paid in advance thirteen lacs which the Paishwa is engaged to supply him with on his encamping at that place. With this requisition the Paishwa has complied and promised to furnish the money as he can raise it.

While the revenues of this State are nearly annihilated by the encroachment of the Rajah of Koulapore on the Paishwa's possessions, the desolation of the country by the insurgents of Sindia's government and the want of authority to enforce the collections, and while its funds provided by former accumulation or current receipts are absorbed by the insatiate and unprincipled demands of Sindia, I can scarcely conceive the possibility of its taking an active part in the war to be apprehended with Tippoo. The forbearing to oppose the progress of the Rajah of Koulapore by the force of Pursaram Bhow, is undoubtedly a strong indication of the Paishwa's desire to fulfil his defensive engagements. But his real object in this forbearance may be to preserve his claim to a participation of any acquisitions which may be made by the other allies from the Sultaun, whether by arms or treaty; though I do not doubt his disposition to obtain such participation by a better title, if his ability will admit of his establishing it.

Your Lordship's letter to Sindia, written on the 22nd ultimo has been delivered to him, and he says he will answer it after attentive consideration.

The Paishwa's indisposition continues; Nana Furnawees has had no return of fever for some days.

I am this instant informed by a note from Gopal Row of the Paishwa's consent to my immediate application for the detachment and that I shall presently be advised of the point to which he wishes it may first be directed to march.

I shall proceed to arrange with the Minister the necessary details of the detachment with all possible expedition.

No. 204—The Resident informs the Governor General of the objection taken by Sindia to the British detachment marching by way of Poona.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 12th February 1799.

My Lord,

Although five days have elapsed since Moonshy Gopal Row promised me, that I should in a few hours be informed of the route on which the Paishwa would require the detachment from Bombay to commence its march, and although I have frequently reminded him of this promise, the point is not yet settled.

Meeting with the Moonshy at Emrut Row's entertainment on the 10th I again reminded him of the delay, and of the ill consequences with which it would be attended from the want of appearance in this State to co-operate with its allies. He only made to me a general promise of procuring an answer immediately. But he told Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien, who was seated next him, that Sindia had made some objections to the detachment coming to Poona as the Paishwa wished, and recommended its proceeding to Pursaram Bhow's camp direct; and that this point was to be settled between Nana Furnavees and Abba Chitnawees the next day.

The Minister at my desire fixed on the evening of that day for Fukeer-ul-Dien to attend him, but afterwards postponed it until the next day, and again disappointed me excusing himself on both occasions by late conferences with Sindia's agents.

Sindia's interposition will be rather fortunate, if it goes no farther than to change the immediate destination of the detachment. But as I have some apprehension of his opposing the requisition of it altogether, I have desired Gopal Row to state to the Minister, that this repeated trifling and procrastination must induce your Lordship to conclude that no reliance can be placed on the Paishwa's fulfilling his defensive engagements and compel you to form your plans totally independent of his co-operation. I have also again expostulated on the detention of Tippoo's Vakeels and the delay in deputing a confidential person to attend your Lordship at Fort St. George, as corroborating instances of the indifference of this

Court to the appearances of concert and unanimity with the other allies. If these remonstrances produce any decision, I shall give your Lordship the earliest advice of it

My Hircarrahs came in yesterday from Pursaram Bhow's camp which, when they left it, was about 12 coss to the southward of Darwar, to which place it was reported that the Bhow intended to march and relieve Doondia Punt Ghokla. The Hircarrahs compute his army at 40,000 men, which, by other reports greatly exceeds the actual number. But whatever his force may be, I apprehend that it must unavoidably be first directed against the Rajah of Koulapore.

Abba Chitnawees is making every exertion in his power to raise money for the purpose of enabling Sindia to proceed to Hindostan and with considerable success. But the sincerity of that chief's professed intention to march can only be ascertained when the whole sum required is collected.

Lacawa Dada has defeated and dispersed two detachments sent against him by Ambajee, one commanded by his son, and the other by his brother. These disasters have caused much consternation at Sindia's Durbar, and I hope will accelerate his departure

No. 205—Mornington sends intimation to the Resident of his having declared hostilities against Tipu and of his hopes that the Peshwa's troops would join him.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA

Fort St George, 3rd February 1799

Sir,

Having received no answer from Tippoo Sultaun to the letter which I wrote to him on the 9th ultimo and in which I repeated for the third time with increased earnestness my proposal respecting the admission of Major Doveton, it is reasonable to conclude that the object of the Sultaun's silence is to delay the commencement of decisive military operations until the season shall be advanced, as to render the siege of his capital impracticable during the present year

To defeat these views, it is become necessary to suspend all negotiations with the Sultaun, until the united force of our arms shall have made such an impression on his territories, as may give full effect to the first representations of the allied Powers.

Under these circumstances you will immediately apprise His Highness the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees, that the obstinate silence of the Sultaun compels me to treat him as an enemy, and that considering the Honourable Company to be in a state of war with him from this day, I shall accordingly direct our armies to enter his territories without further delay.

You will at the same time signify to the Paishwa and to his Minister, my confident expectation of their entire concurrence in the justice and necessity of the determination which I have reluctantly adopted after full deliberation, and after having afforded to the Sultaun repeated opportunities of an amicable adjustment of the differences which have arisen between him and the allies in consequence of his offensive engagements with the French. You will also assure the Paishwa and Nana Furnaweess of my hope that the Mahratta Empire will instantly pursue the requisite steps for the vigorous prosecution of hostilities against the common enemy.

Entertaining no views of aggrandizement, my objects in the war will be limited to the attainment of just indemnity for the great expense to which the aggression of Tippoo Sultaun has subjected the allies; and of a reasonable security against the future violence and treachery of that prince. But no negotiation with a view to either object can be opened without danger to the common cause, until the Sultaun shall have been compelled to entertain serious apprehensions for the safety of Seerrungputum. And it is accordingly my resolution to listen to no overtures from him until we shall have attained such position as shall sufficiently secure us against the effects of his insincerity. In this determination I have no doubt of being cordially supported by the Paishwa and by Nana Furnaweess.

I shall hope to learn by your answer to this letter that the Paishwa has dismissed the Vakeels of the Sultaun, and has actually ordered the march of the Mahratta contingent into Bednore.

The Company's army of the Carnatic is assembled in the highest condition and with the most complete appointments in every respect. His Highness the Nizam's contingent is now within a few miles of the main army. A large force is also preparing to cooperate on the coast of Malabar, and a considerable division of His Majesty's fleet now blockades the ports of the Sultaun on that coast.

The Rajahs of Travancore and of Coorga are ready to afford every assistance, within their power, to the general objects of the war. With this united force I entertain a firm conviction, that the Sultaun will ultimately be brought to a just sense of the fatal errors which he has committed in attempting the impracticable project of disturbing the British Empire in India.

No. 206—The Resident conveys to the Governor General an intimation of his having communicated the declaration of hostilities to the Peshwa.

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 15th February 1799.

My Lord,

I had the honour to receive your Lordship's commands of the 3rd Instant yesterday morning. Wishing to make the earliest communication of them to this Government, I demanded an immediate interview with the Minister, and as he answered that an appointment with Abba Chintnawees on urgent business would occupy him the whole day and prevent his seeing me until this evening, I sent to him in writing the substance of both the requisitions and the information contained in your Lordship's letter, and requested that he would be prepared with determinate answers to such points as required them. He has this day again been obliged to postpone his appointment in consequence of the Paishwa having sent him word that he intends to visit him this evening.

Moonshy Gopal Row sent me notice the night before last, that the immediate application for the Bombay detachment and the route which it should take was finally determined, and that he would wait upon me the next day with the necessary information. He did not keep his word, but at night a person came from him and desired me to require that the troops should be immediately embarked for the port of Jeyghur, the same at which Captain Little's detachment landed, and on the nearest route for a junction with the Paishwa's force on the Southern frontier.

Although this notice is rather loose and informal, I have advised Mr Duncan of it by express and have required from this Government the necessary orders to its Aumils for the proper reception of the troops, for furnishing them with supplies and for affording them every other assistance which they may require.

I hope at my interview with the Minister to be satisfied of his provision for the regular discharge of the subsidy, of the means of supply and of effecting the secure junction of the detachment with the Paishwa's troops; to learn every circumstance, necessary for your Lordship's information, of the strength, preparation, and destination of the contingent and to obtain the immediate dismissal of Tippoo's Vakeels.

No. 207—The Resident reports to the Governor General his interview with Nana Fadnis on the subject of the dismissal of Tipu's Vakils and Sindia's march to the north.

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th February 1799.

My Lord,

I was not able to obtain an audience of the Minister until yesterday evening and even then found him less prepared to give determinate answers on the points of your Lordship's instructions to me which I had submitted to his consideration on the 14th, than I had flattered myself he would have been.

The Minister said, that he had communicated to the Paishwa at the visit which he had made to him the day before, the requisition which your Lordship had enjoined me to make for the immediate dismissal of Tippoo's Vakeels, and for the advance of the contingent of this State into Bednore ; but could not then bring him to a decision on the former subject, that he would again press it upon the Paishwa, and inform me of his answer this day. But he had evidently been a little disconcerted at your Lordship's resolution to prosecute hostilities without further delay, and observed that it was to be wished you had suspended this measure until you had received the Sultaun's answer to your letter of the 9th ultimo, which had possibly been delayed by some accident to the messenger. I easily satisfied him of the justice and expediency of your Lordship's determination, by repeating the unprovoked aggressions of Tippoo, your long forbearance to exact a just reparation and security and Tippoo's palpable evasion of your proposal for an amicable accommodation obviously to gain time and deprive you of the advantages of early preparation, while you were subjected to all the expense of actual hostilities ; and stating, that if the Sultaun was seriously disposed to render justice to the allies, Your Lordship had still left him the option of treating. But as the Minister's observation appeared to me to be the result of some disappointed view, I endeavoured to convince him that any expectation of separate advantage to this State from detaining the Vakeel, would be as vain as it was incompatible with its engagements, the common interests of the allies, and the actual situation of the contending parties. I added that although the other allies had a right to insist upon the Paishwa's immediate dismissal of the Vakeels, your Lordship was disposed to expect it from his regard to good faith and from the consideration of the relief which his compliance would afford to your mind.

Nana Furnawees rather evaded a direct answer to this representation, but desired me to have the most perfect reliance on the integrity of this

State in all its proceedings respecting its allies. The Sultaun's Vakeels had been told that the aggressions of their master were clearly proved and that he must resolve either to give your Lordship the satisfaction which you demand, or risk a war with the confederate Powers.

Upon the Minister's making this declaration, I asked what could be the necessity of detaining the Vakeels a moment after so decided an answer, he replied that there was no intention to detain them and that they would not have continued here until this time but for the indisposition of the Paishwa and himself. Then I am to understand, said I, that they will have their audience of leave in a day or two. This assurance, however, he declined to give me, but repeated that he would learn the Paishwa's determination this day and inform me of it.

From the Minister's reserve in speaking decisively on this point, which I have so repeatedly and earnestly urged to him, I am apprehensive that he has committed himself in an effort to intercede with your Lordship for a favourable adjustment of your demands on Tippoo, on condition of his advancing a sum of money to this Government, and that he is unwilling to relinquish the prospect of this advantage by dismissing the Vakeels before an answer arrives. This is the very conduct which he pursued at the commencement of the late war between the allies and Tippoo, and the success with which it was then attended may have encouraged him to repeat now. But I shall persist in my expostulations and remonstrances on the Vakeels continuing here until I see their departure.

With respect to the advance of the Paishwa's contingent into the enemy's country, Nana assured me that every effort was making to this effect, which the perplexed state of affairs in the Government would admit. He was in daily expectation of Pursaram Bhow's answer to the Paishwa's desire of his taking the chief command of the force intended for that service. If the Bhow should decline it, one of his brothers would be appointed. That the force attached to this family was respectable both in numbers and equipment, and would not be diverted from the object in question by the distractions of the country, and if these should be appeased or diminished, the Bhow's army should be reinforced by other troops. In the mean time the Bombay detachment might proceed without delay to form a junction with that army on the frontier, which would evince the sincere intentions of this Court to act in concert with its allies, and proportionately distract the attention and divide the strength of the enemy.

I told the Minister that your Lordship was sensible of the difficulties under which this Empire labours, in fulfilling its defensive engagements in the spirit and to the extent of the views with which they were formed, but that it was entirely in its power to give its allies two unequivocal proofs of its attachment to the common cause. The first was, the instant

dismissal of Tippo's Vakeels, the other, the immediate junction of a body of the Company's troops with those of the State. To the latter measure the Paishwa had indeed agreed, but his formal requisition for the march of the detachment and the necessary arrangements for receiving and subsisting it were still unaccountably delayed. Nana said there was no wish to protract the call of the troops, nor did he know why the requisite Purwanahs had not been already furnished to me, but he would take care that I should receive them this day and in effect the drafts of them have been brought to me for perusal, and on my approval have been taken back for the Paishwa's signature. I hope no further delay will ensue and I know not any reason which can occasion it. But no reliance can be placed on Mahratta punctuality.

Nana Furnawees informed me that a person named Bapoo Rhow, who resides at a distance from Poona, has been fixed upon by the Paishwa to be deputed to your Lordship, and summoned to the durbar for the purpose of receiving his appointment and instructions, but is not yet arrived. I am told that Bapoo Rhow is a man of distinction, character and abilities, and in acquirements, superior to those of the Mahratta people in general who are employed in public affairs.

I enquired of the Minister what expectation he entertained of Sindia's proceeding to Hindostan and he fairly confessed that he had little or none. Sindia still promises to retire, he said, but observed that the value of his promises were well-known. I wished him to have been more particular on the present relative situation of that chief and the Paishwa, but he showed a reluctance to enter upon the subject, as if painful to him, and I therefore did not press it. I have been otherwise informed that the insolence and menaces of the troops have induced Abba Chitnawees to reside constantly in the city, though he continues to conduct Sindia's affairs; that the three commanders of regular infantry declare their troops shall not march until their arrears are discharged and as much pay advanced as will subsist them until their arrival at Muttra, although they had consented to march on receiving two months pay of their arrears. These men, one of whom has been a French Serjeant and the other two, the sons of low European adventurers by native women, treat Sindia's authority with the utmost contempt, and his person with the greatest disrespect, and thus the instrument of his violence and rapine has recoiled upon himself. Having again reminded him, through Gunpat Roy, of the obstruction which his presence occasions to the co-operation of the Paishwa with his allies as so often stated to him and repeated in your Lordship's letter of the 22nd ultimo, he answered a little peevishly that it was useless to importune him so frequently, that he was as desirous of going as I was that he should be gone, but I know his situation perfectly; it was impossible for him to move until he obtained the money to satisfy his troops, with which the Paishwa had engaged to supply him. But as I knew this sum to be very

inadequate to these demands, I fear that the receipt of it will have no effect on his movements

Moonshy Shunkar Row has just been with me, sent by Nana Furnawees to inform me that he has obtained the Paishwa's permission to dismiss Tippoo's Vakeels, and in consequence had given them notice that they must depart immediately. But these persons having earnestly solicited a respite of fifteen days until they could receive answers to propositions which they had forwarded to Seerungputtum, he was desirous of granting their request, if I had no objection to it, otherwise they should be dismissed. I excused myself from assenting to the Minister's proposal by a repetition of the reasons and arguments so often urged against the continuance of this embassy, with the additional objection of fresh embarrassments arising from listening to further proposals from the Suldaun, since negotiation was exclusively in the hands of your Lordship for the mutual interests of the allies. I softened my refusal by assurances of my earnest desire to comply with the wishes of the Paishwa or the Minister on all points which might be of advantage to this Government, without injury to the rights or interests of the Company or the common cause, and not incompatible with my duty. I hope this answer will close the discussion.

No. 208—The Resident complains to the Governor General that the Peshwa had not dismissed Tipu's Vakils from his Court.

FROM—W PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 23rd February 1799

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I yesterday received the Paishwa's final permission to apply for the detachment from Bombay, and to direct its proceeding by sea to Jeyghur, whence it will advance to the southern frontier of this State, and join the force under Pursaram Bhow. I have accordingly made a requisition to the Government of Bombay for the troops, as authorized by your Lordship's commands of the 11th ultimo. My assistant will repair to Jeyghur, and proceed with the detachment to attend the Mahratta Commander.

It is not yet known whether Pursaram Bhow will accept of the charge of the Paishwa's contingent. But I am informed, that the Rajah of Koulapore has desisted from his incursions, and retired to his own district, which if true, leaves the Bhow at liberty to engage in the war against Tippoo.

Having received no reply to my answer given to Moonshy Shunker Row on the subject of the departure of the Mysore Vakeels, as stated to your Lordship in my last address, I sent a note to Gopal Row desiring him to represent to the Minister, that the Paishwa had left this point entirely to his decision. Your Lordship in reliance on his regard to good faith to the interests of the common cause, and to his personal consideration for yourself, would expect to learn from my first advices that these people had been dismissed. Gopal Row did not answer this note until last night, and then by a verbal message, acquainting me that although Nana had requested a delay first of fifteen and afterwards of ten days, he would, for your Lordship's satisfaction, dismiss the Vakeels sooner. I desired the messenger to tell Gopal Row that this promise was vague and indeterminate, and requested to be informed precisely of the day fixed for their audience of leave. And as I cannot depend upon the diligence or fidelity in the agency of Gopal Row, I have privately addressed a letter in the Mahratta language, and to the above effect, directly to the Minister himself, a proceeding which will give the Moonshy offence, if he should be informed of it, but which I must either adopt or subject myself to uncertainty and disappointment.

Abba Chitnawees having convinced Sindia and his military officers, that it is in vain to expect the smallest supply from the Paishwa until the army shall retire from this neighbourhood, both Baajy Row and the Minister declaring they will meet any extremity rather than submit to further exaction, they have agreed to march to Corygaon, but no day is yet fixed for moving.

All prospect of reconciliation between Sindia and his parents seems to be at an end, and no security seems to be left to the latter but in a retreat into Hindostan. *

No. 209—The Resident reports to the Governor General that no reliance can be placed in the engagements of the Peshwa or his minister in the present circumstances of the Poona Government.

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 26th February 1799.

Nana Furnawees, in answer to the letter which I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my last address I had written to him, requiring

the immediate dismissal of Tippoo's Vakeels, sent a person to assure me that they should not be detained beyond the 22nd of this moon, which falls on the 28th instant

With a view to confirm him in this resolution, and to obtain such information as might tend to ascertain the ability of this State to engage in the war against Tippoo, I sent Moonshy Fukeer-ul-Dien to the Minister yesterday evening, who represented to him in my name, that although the Vakeels ought to have been dismissed long ago, or rather should not have been received in the state of aggression in which the Sultaun stood towards the allies, yet if the Minister adhered to his promise of dismissing them on the 22nd, I would endeavour to satisfy your Lordship that he had effected this point with as much dispatch as the circumstances would admit.

Nana Furnawees, in extenuation of receiving the embassy from Tippoo, observed, that in the late war and after the commencement of hostilities, Vakeels from that Prince had been admitted at this Court and remained many months without injury to the cause of the allies. In the present instance, however, as your Lordship was anxious for their removal, he would not have delayed it after your first requisition, but remarked emphatically that he was not the same Nana Furnawees that we had known at the former period, yet I might rely upon it that the Vakeels should not remain after the 22nd of the moon.

Fukeer-ul-Dien then enquired into the situation of Pursaram Bhow and his intentions to accept or decline the command of the Paishwa's contingent, to which the Minister answered that the Bhow was still in the vicinity of Darwar, the Paishwa's messengers to him had been impeded by apprehensions of the Koulapore troops, and the Bhow had detached 500 horse for their safe conduct. His answer was daily expected, and I should be informed of it as soon as it arrived. No exertions within the power of this State to fulfil its defensive engagements, the Minister said, should be omitted or delayed and he hoped soon to bring the troops on the frontier into action.

To the enquiry which I directed Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien to make of the prospect of removing Sindia, Nana said that Chief had been plainly informed of the Paishwa's final determination not to discharge the remaining sum of twelve lacks of rupees, but on the condition to which he had agreed to his marching to Corygaown, and he professed his intention to proceed thither in a few days, but showing some irresolution on account of leaving the insurgents with the Bhyes in arms. Nana had proposed that he should leave a detachment of four battalions and 2,000 horse to reduce that party, and proceed with the rest of his army into Hindostan. Sindia had not yet answered this proposal.

The Minister added that he had been informed, of a design entertained by Sindia's Christian commanders, supported by Baboo Row Angria

and by him proposed to Sindia, to seize his (Nana's) person. But the latter had expressed the strongest disapprobation of it and declared his contrition for the injuries and sufferings to which he had already subjected him.

Whatever discouragement Sindia may seriously give to such a design, the Minister's only security against it is the opinion which those who have formed it may have, of its utility to their purpose of extorting money. No considerations of justice or humanity will restrain them, there is no force to oppose them, and Sindia's authority over his troops is annihilated.

From the above description of the situation of this Government, and of the Minister himself, it is obvious that little reliance can be placed on any efforts of either to fulfil the foreign engagements of the State while the authority of the former is depressed, and the personal liberty of the latter is menaced by an irresistible force. And the removal of this force depends neither on the engagements nor interests of the prince to whom it belongs, but is to be determined by the selfish views of a few ignorant and unprincipled military officers.

I trust, however, that such measures as will evince the sincere disposition of this Court to act cordially with its allies, are still within its power and will be immediately carried into execution. The Minister assures me, that no unnecessary delay shall take place in those which have already been adopted, that is, the junction of the Bombay detachment with the Paishwa's troops on the frontier, the dismissal of the Mysore Vakeels, and the dispatch of the ambassador to be deputed to your Lordship.

No. 210—The Resident informs the Governor General that the Peshwa's Government by its breach of faith has forfeited its claim to any advantages resulting from the war with Tipu Sultan.

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 1st March 1799.

Sindia, in answer to the proposal made to him by Nana Furnawees, as stated in the 5th paragraph of my last address, has declared his determination not to retire until he shall have adjusted the disputes with his relations, or have reduced them to submission. As he must be convinced that neither of the objects are attainable in the total want of

reputation for good faith to effect the first, and in his want of cavalry to undertake the last, I consider his declaration as a mere pretext to continue here and maintain his usurpations on the Government and exactions on the revenue and on individuals, which will probably soon terminate in the subversion of the former, without long protracting that of his own.

But whatever evils may ultimately result either from the continuance of Sindia near Poona, the immediate effect to the Company is to be totally deprived of the assistance of its ally, as in fact, it has hitherto been. I have therefore directed Gunput Roy to desire Sindia will reflect upon the sentiments which your Lordship must entertain of him, from his obstinate perseverance in a conduct so opposite to that which you have so repeatedly recommended to him, and so adverse to the rights, interests, and security of the Company and its allies.

It appears to me that the removal of Sindia is indispensable to the Paishwa's taking any active part in the war, and his persisting to remain here is so unjustifiable in every point of view, that he should be peremptorily required to repair to Hindostan, and be declared responsible for any misfortune which may be the consequence of his refusal, and of his obstructing the performance of the defensive engagements of the Mahratta State.

There may be some risk of making Sindia an active enemy by holding out the language of menace or intimidation, but I am rather inclined to think it would produce only the effect intended by alarming his fears for the safety of his possessions from the Jumna to the Nurbudda. Although I might not have much hesitation in assuming such a tone of requisition to Sindia, there is one consideration which must restrain me, even if I thought the urgency of the case would justify my dispensing with your Lordship's express sanction, I mean that of your judging it expedient in the present conjuncture to enforce a compliance, as I am persuaded that you would not approve the employing of an empty threat.

The 28th being the day appointed for the dismissal of Tippoo's Vakeels, I sent a note to Gopal Rhow in the morning to remind him of it, repeating the advantages to be derived by the allies and the particular satisfaction which your Lordship would receive from the execution of this measure. Gopal Rhow answered with more than usual readiness, that the Minister had requested of the Paishwa to give the Vakeels their audience of leave in the evening. At six o'clock Shunker Rhow came to inform me that the audience had been appointed and the dresses prepared, but it was unavoidably deferred in consequence of one of the Vakeels being taken ill of a fever.

I could not help treating this excuse as a mere evasion of promise, and told the Moonshy that it was useless for me to make further requisition;

Every argument which justice and policy suggested to me, aided by the most earnest entreaty on motives of friendship and personal consideration for your Lordship, had been repeatedly urged in vain. That I could no longer rely on any assurances and must submit to your Lordship's determination what degree of confidence was to be placed on the conduct of this Government in support of the war.

I do not, indeed, apprehend that the Paishwa will violate his defensive engagements, but it is obviously his intention to defer entering upon the performance for the contemptible and unworthy purpose of obtaining a few lacks of rupees from Tippoo on false pretences. And in this state of inaction I expect he will remain until his hopes are realized or disappointed, or until he hears of some advantage obtained by the allies over the Sultaun, regardless of every remonstrance and in opposition to his clearest interests, for no apprehension of remote consequences can divert the Brahmin from attention to present gain.

It might with the strictest justice be declared, that this State has failed in its engagements, and has consequently forfeited its claim to any participation in the eventual advantages of the alliance, although it may not be prudent to risk by such a declaration the defection of the Paishwa to the cause of Tippoo, or to relinquish such benefits as may be expected from his maintaining the appearances only of concert and adherence to his engagements.

I have this day been advised by the Government of Bombay of its orders for the immediate embarkation of the detachment required by the Paishwa to join his forces on the frontier, of which I have given notice to the Minister that no delay to its advance may ensue from the want of such preparation as depends upon this Government.

No. 211—Palmer writes to the G. G. an account of his Munshi's interview with the Minister and concludes from it that the Peshwa was trying to gain advantages from the allies' success, without taking part in the war.

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 5th March 1799.

My Lord,

I had the honour to receive Your Lordship's commands of the 19th ultimo on the 1st instant at night, and the next morning I wrote to Gopal Rhow desiring an interview with the Minister either for myself or my

Moonshy ; I received no answer until the next day, when a meeting was appointed for Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien, on the 5th. Suspecting that this was a studied delay, and precaution against any requisition which I might have to make and with which it might not be convenient to comply, I directed my Moonshy to write a note to Gopal Rhow, of which translate is enclosed

This note produced an immediate summons to Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien to wait upon the Minister, which was directly complied with. Nana Furnawees at his entrance told him that understanding I had desired an interview with him myself, he could not be prepared for it earlier than the time he had fixed, but was ready to attend to any communications which I might desire to make through my agent

I instructed Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien to insist, in Your Lordship's name, on the dismissal of Tippoo's Vakeels without the smallest delay, and to represent the displeasure which Your Lordship had justly conceived at the dilatory and equivocal conduct of this Court in relation to its defensive engagements. As there is no necessity for immediate communication to the Durbar on Your Lordship's resolutions respecting an augmentation of subsidiary force to the Paishwa, the conditions on which the present detachment is to be retained after the war, and the mediation of this Court between the allies and Tippoo, I directed Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien not to introduce these subjects, but if they should be mentioned by the Minister which I did not expect, to refer him to a personal interview with me, for information upon them

My Moonshy having entered at large into the reasons and arguments so often urged in objection to the detention of Tippoo's Vakeels and contrasted the proceedings of the allies in this point, and in that of the preparations for war, with those of the Paishwa, Nana engaged with some warmth in the justification of or apology for the conduct of the Government towards the allies. He defended the admission of the Mysort Embassy by usage and by the sanction which he said Sir Charles Male, gave to it in the late war, in declaring his satisfaction at this Durbar having obtained money in consequence of it from the enemy. He excused the detention of the Vakeels beyond the day fixed for their audience of leave, by the indisposition of one of them which he asserted to be a fact and desired, if I was incredulous, that I would send my surgeon to ascertain the truth

The Minister proceeded to observe, that no other Government so distracted by domestic dissensions as this is, would have given any attention to its foreign obligations. But here every effort within the power of the State to make, had been exerted to fulfil its engagements. A force was collected within two stages of the frontier, and an auxiliary force of the Company's troops was applied for. These circumstances, he said, proved the sincere intention of the Paishwa to cooperate with

his allies. He expatiated on the zeal and fidelity with which he had conducted the alliance of this State with the Company in the late war, and asked, why it should be supposed that he would now be deficient in those qualities. His disposition was the same, though his circumstances were different.

Meer Fukeer-ul-Dien, in reply, observed that the precedent offered by the Minister in justification of detaining the Sultaun's Embassy did not apply to the present situation of affairs, but he had only to request his determination as to dismissing it immediately. Nana said that he would send Ragoo Pundit to enquire into the state of the Vakeel's health who is indisposed, and fix a day for their audience accordingly, of which he would give me notice as soon as Ragoo Pundit should make his report.

My Moonshy then enquired what prospect the Minister had of the troops of this State being brought into actual hostilities against the common enemy. Nana said that it was intended the Bombay detachment should proceed without loss of time to join Pursaram Bhow for the purpose of attacking the Sultaun's northern dominions. But it was not yet known whether the Bhow would acquiesce in this plan or accept the proffered command of the contingent. He had received the Khelaat sent by the Paishwa and his answer was hourly expected, of which I should be informed when it arrived.

The Minister then asked, if the Bombay detachment might not be employed on any incidental service for the Paishwa on its route to the frontier. This he explained by saying, that the insurgents of Sindia's Government might join the Rajah of Koulapore, in which case, it would be necessary to attack their united force. Fukeer-ul-Dien observed, that this would impede the service for which the detachment was required. Nana answered that it would rather accelerate it, as leaving Pursaram Bhow in a short time entirely at liberty to prosecute the war against Tippoo, and he desired Fukeer-ul-Dien to mention his request and obtain my answer. I have in consequence informed the Minister by message, that I have no authority to divert the services of the detachment from their original destination.

It is but too plain from this requisition, that the fulfilling of its defensive engagements is at best but a secondary object with this Court, and that no expectation can be reasonably entertained of its cooperation against the common enemy until it has received a considerable degree of internal tranquillity, of which I see not the most distant prospect.

But it surprizes me that Nana should have thus avowed an intention of employing the Bombay detachment for his own purposes, and I cannot account for it otherwise than by supposing the application to have been dictated by Sindia, or at least by his own expectation that with the aid of the detachment, the insurrection of the Bhyes would be soon

as that of repairing into Hindostan, for what other purpose had he left his cantonments? But he could not effect his intentions, until the Paishwa should enable him, by the payment of a sum of money to satisfy his troops, and by accommodating the dispute with his family and their adherents. His presence, he said, was no impediment to the Paishwa's performing his engagements to the allies; on the contrary, his attachment to the three states made him sincerely desirous of promoting the objects of the alliance.

Your Lordship will judge of the sincerity of Sindia's professions, when I inform you that the Paishwa had actually paid the sum for which he was engaged, on condition of Sindia's marching to Corygaowng, and that this sum was but 13 lacs of rupees; whereas, the troops require 40 or 50 lacs to satisfy their arrears, and instead of assisting the Paishwa or leaving him at liberty to furnish his contingent, he requires of him a body of 4,000 horse, to join in pursuit of the Bhyes. I have not yet heard from Gunput Roy in consequence of my direction to him to intimate to Sindia your Lordship's having judged it expedient to continue a large force on the Nazim's frontier.

The conclusion which I am induced to draw, from a knowledge of the circumstances and proceedings of this Government, is, that conscious of its inability to engage in the war, it has adopted the policy of converting its weakness to advantage, by persuading Tippoo that its inactivity will be voluntary; and if that prince, as is most likely, should not be deceived by this artifice, every appearance of a desire of cordially co-operating with its allies will be assumed, with a view to share in the successes of the war.

No. 212—The Resident reports the Bombay detachment having sailed, but that the Peshwa had not fixed its destination.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 8th March 1799.

My Lord,

Since my last address, appearances threaten a renewal of violence against this Government on the part of Sindia, whose ministers, Abba Chitnawees and his two brothers Gopal Bhow and Kistna Chitnawees, having been put under the restraint called Dherna by the troops, Sindia

declares that he will place the Paishwa and Nana Furnawees in the same situation, unless they will supply him with money to satisfy his army.

I have been advised from Bombay of the detachment having sailed on the 3rd, and as it will by this time have been disembarked, I have pressed the Minister to inform me of its destination and route, and to furnish me with money for its subsistence. But I have only obtained in answer a general promise that these points shall be adjusted without delay.

No expectation can be formed of assistance from a state so reduced as this is by internal dissensions, and while the little strength and resources which remain to it, and the authority of its head are wrested to the purposes of a needy and unprincipled chieftain, neither the Paishwa nor his Minister will acknowledge their inability to co-operate in the war, lest they should forfeit the expected advantages of the defensive alliance.

In this state of confusion and uncertainty I am apprehensive of the detachment being detained in inactivity at the place of its disembarkation. Its coming to Poona would have been preferable to such a situation, and the Paishwa certainly desired that this should be its first destination, but Sindia would not permit it. I do not know how it can be employed to the advantage of the common cause but by a junction with Pursaram Bhow, and report says that he has declined to engage in the war, unless the Paishwa will secure to him funds for the subsistence of his troops, though the Minister still asserts that no answer has been received from him.

I shall endeavour to ascertain from an interview with the Minister what prospect there may ultimately be of directing the services of the detachment to its proper objects, but I confess, with little expectation of his being able to satisfy me.

No. 213—The Governor General writes strong letters to the Peshwa and his Minister conveying a remonstrance against Tipu's Vakils being detained at Poona.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA

Fort St George, 25th February 1799

Sir,

You will receive from the Persian Translator by the present express a letter (No 1) which I have judged it necessary to write to the Paishwa in consequence of His Highness's extraordinary reluctance to dismiss the ambassadors from Tippoo.

You will deliver or send this letter to the Paishwa without loss of time, unless he should actually have dismissed the Vakeels before your receipt of it. In that case, you will suppress this letter, and communicate to the Paishwa and to the Minister that marked No. 2.

In the event of the Vakeels' remaining at Poona when you receive this despatch, you will second the arguments and demands contained in my letter by the strongest remonstrances. If these should prove fruitless, you will signify to the Paishwa, that the objects which I had in view in consenting to a detachment of the Company's troops joining and acting with his contingent, cannot possibly be attained while he still entertained Vakeels from the common enemy, and that, if he should persist in a conduct so incompatible with the principles of the Triple Alliance, you must order the detachment to return to Bombay. And I accordingly desire, that in the extreme case supposed, you will direct the detachment to return thither without delay.

The Persian Translator has received my orders to transmit to you copies of the papers referred to in my letter to the Paishwa, namely, of a letter which I received from Tippoo Sultaun on the 13th instant, of my answer written on the 22nd instant, and of a declaration by which I have thought proper to accompany the advance of the allied armies towards Mysore. You will communicate these papers to the Paishwa and to his Ministers without delay, and you will give as much publicity as possible to the declaration and to my whole correspondence with the Sultaun, especially to my letter of the 9th January.

P.S.—Letters to Nana Furnawees to the same effect as those to the Paishwa, mentioned in the body of this letter, will also be forwarded to you by the Persian Translator.

No. 214—The Governor General sends to Daulatrao Sindia full reasons for his declaration of war against Tipu, in order to secure to the allies peace, happiness and honour.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—DOWLUTRAO SINDIA.

Written, 15th February 1799.

You are already apprized of the serious difference which has taken place between the Honourable Company and their allies, and Tippoo Sultaun in consequence of the latter's unprovoked violation of the

treaty of Seringapatam I am concerned to add that the conduct of the Sultaun has at length compelled them, upon principle of self defence, to have recourse to arms Being desirous of explaining to the friends and connections of the Company the grounds of this unavoidable determination, I have deemed it advisable to draw up a formal declaration, setting forth the conduct of Tippoo Sultaun and the nature of the various measures which have been adopted to effect an amicable accommodation of the difference which the Sultaun's ambition and insatiable revenge have produced between him and the allies, and I have transmitted a copy of that declaration to the Resident at Poona for Your Excellency's perusal

Influenced by no motives of ambition, anxious to maintain the relations of amity and concord with all the Powers around them, and secure the internal peace and tranquillity of their own dominions, by a strict observance of the obligations of treaty and the rights of nations, the Company and their allies have strictly adhered to these principles throughout their intercourse with Tippoo Sultaun, and with the most patient forbearance have continued to adopt every conciliatory means of accommodation under circumstances that would have justified an immediate appeal to arms. But these efforts have proved fruitless and they are at length most unwillingly compelled to this issue as the only means now left, to secure to them the future peaceable possession of their territory, their happiness, and their honour.

This will fully appear from the record of facts contained in the declaration above alluded to, and while it affords a testimony to the world of the moderation of the views of the Honourable Company, and their disposition to acknowledge the just rights of others, it will evince their determination to secure their own against all the attempts of ambition and the machinations of revenge

No. 215—The G G conveys an emphatic warning to the Peshwa against entertaining Tipu's Vakils at his court Any conduct against the interests of the allies will, adds the G. G , simply result in evil to the Peshwa

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE PESHWA

Written, 24th February 1799

Your Highness will have been some time since informed by Colonel Palmer, that the conduct of Tippoo Sultaun had at length compelled

me to consider the Honourable Company and of course its allies to be in a state of war with that Prince.

Colonel Palmer will now have the honour of communicating to Your Highness the copy of the letter which I received from Tippoo Sultaun on the 13th instant, ten days after I had, upon the fullest consideration of the case, adopted the determination which Colonel Palmer has already communicated to you.

Colonel Palmer has also my directions to communicate to your Highness a copy of my answer to the letter of the 13th instant from the Sultaun, as well as a copy of a declaration which I have judged it advisable to publish on this occasion in the name of the Company and of its allies.

I am persuaded that your Highness, upon an attentive consideration of these several documents, will be perfectly satisfied that no overtures towards accommodation can now be received from Tippoo Sultaun with any degree of consistency, or any beneficial negotiation be opened with him, excepting at the head of the armies which are actually entering his country.

For this reason your Highness will no doubt perceive that no advantage can possibly arise from the presence of any Vakeels from Tippoo Sultaun at your Court; on the contrary, it must be evident to you that your entertaining any Vakeels from that Prince under the present circumstances must prove highly prejudicial to the allied interests, as well by inspiring Tippoo Sultaun with the hopes of dividing the allies, and by disseminating general doubts of the sincerity of your Highness's attachment to the common cause.

I therefore earnestly entreat your Highness immediately to dismiss the Vakeels of Tippoo now at your Court, and with the same earnestness exhort your Highness not to receive any other mission from that Prince during the war. If he should express any desire to open a negotiation I request your Highness to refer him to the representatives of the allies accompanying their armies in the field. Any negotiation carried on at a distance from the army would prove fruitless and indecisive.

If (which God avert, and my friendly confidence will not anticipate) Your Highness should neglect my present earnest instances, and should either delay the dismissal of the Vakeels of Tippoo Sultaun now at Poonah or hereafter receive others from that Prince during the war, I think it the duty of a friend and ally to apprise Your Highness, that I shall be under the necessity of considering such conduct to be a departure from the true spirit of the defensive engagements subsisting between Your Highness, His Highness the Nizam, and the Honourable Company; and I know not the extent of the evils which may follow so unexpected a relaxation of the bonds of friendship and alliance.

On the other hand, it is a pleasure to me to believe Your Highness will discharge the duty of a faithful friend and cordial ally by instantly

dismissing the Vakeels, by refusing during hostilities to receive any others, and by zealously exerting the full extent of your present means to cooperate with the Company and His Highness the Nizam in the prosecution of the war with the common enemy.

Under this expectation and in a firm confidence that you will remember the ancient connexion between the Company and your family, as well as the proofs which I have recently afforded of my sincere desire to improve the relations of friendship with you, I assure Your Highness that no negotiations shall take place or any agreement be concluded with the enemy in which your interests shall not be in all respects placed on the same grounds with those of the Company and of the Nizam. In the mean time I shall be very happy to hear and to consider any particular views which Your Highness may entertain in the event of negotiation with the enemy, whether conveyed to me in writing from yourself or through the channel of Colonel Palmer*

No. 216—The G. G. invites the Peshwa to join him in the hostilities against Tipu Sultan.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE PAISHWA

Written, 24th February 1799

I have regularly communicated to Your Highness the progress of my correspondence with Tippoo Sultaun respecting his infraction of the treaty of Seringapatam, and I have had the satisfaction to find Your Highness concurring in all the measures which I have deemed it necessary to adopt for the common security of the Company and their allies. It is a further satisfaction to me to reflect that no endeavours have been omitted to recall the Sultaun to a sense of the obligations of treaty and to effect an amicable accommodation of the differences, which his ambition and insatiable revenge have produced between him and the allies.

It is a subject of extreme regret that these conciliatory and friendly measures have failed to produce a correspondent effect and to have rendered it absolutely necessary upon principles of self-defence to resort to arms. After the Sultaun's repeated rejection of the proposition to send an ambassador to his Court, notwithstanding the warnings he received, his tardy and reluctant acquiescence (intimated to me in a letter

* This letter and the following one are printed by Martin as one piece at page 466 of Wellesley's Despatches Vol I

received on the 13th Instant, of which a copy will be communicated to Your Highness) so far from indicating a spirit of reconciliation, can only be considered as an insidious attempt to protract the operations of the field in the hope of prosecuting his hostile designs against the allies, with a better prospect of success. I have therefore signified to the Sultaun in my reply, of which a copy will also be submitted to Your Highness by the Resident, that his compliance with the proposal at this protracted period cannot produce any change in the determination of the allies to put their respective troops in motion: deeming it advisable that the grounds of this determination should be publicly made known, I have drawn up a formal declaration on the part of the Honourable Company and their allies, setting forth the conduct of Tippoo Sultaun and the nature of the various measures which have been adopted by the allies to effect the accommodation they have so earnestly desired and so unremittingly sought. I have forwarded a copy of the declaration to the Resident for Your Highness's perusal. I am fully convinced that Your Highness, sensible of the absolute necessity of the resolution therein expressed will zealously exert the full extent of your present means, to cooperate with the Company, and His Highness the Nizam, in the prosecution of the war with the common enemy.

Under this expectation and in the firm confidence that Your Highness will remember the ancient connexion between the Company and your family, as well as the proofs which I have recently afforded of my sincere desire to improve the relation of friendship with you, I assure Your Highness that no negotiation shall take place or any agreement be concluded with the enemy in which your interests shall not be in all respects placed on the same grounds with those of the Company and of the Nizam. In the mean while, I shall be very happy to hear and to consider any particular views which Your Highness may entertain in the event of a negotiation with the enemy, whether conveyed to me in writing from yourself, or through the channels of Colonel Palmer.

No. 217—Tipu acknowledges receipt of the letter from the Grand Porte and expresses his willingness to meet Maj. Doveton, the ambassador of the Co.

FROM—TIPPOO SULTAUN,

TO—EARL MORNINGTON.

Received, 13th February 1799.

I have been much gratified by the agreeable receipt of your Lordship's two friendly letters, the first brought by a camel-man, the last by Hircarrahs,

and understood their contents The letter of the Prince in station-like Jumsheid, with angels as his guards, with troops numerous as the stars, the sun illuminating the world, the Heaven of Empire and Dominion, the luminary giving splendor to the universe, the firmament of glory and power, the Sultan of the Sea and the Land, the King of Rome (i.e., the Grand Seignior), be his empire and his power perpetual, addressed to me, which reached you thro' the British envoy, and which you transmitted, has arrived

Being frequently disposed to make excursions and hunt, I am accordingly proceeding upon a hunting excursion, you will be pleased to send Major Doveton (about whose coming your friendly pen has repeatedly written), slightly attended

Always continue to gratify me by friendly letters notifying your welfare.*

No. 218—The Resident presses for the dismissal of Tipu's vakils

Translate of a Note written by Moonshy Meer Fukkeer-ul-Dien to
Moonshy Gopal Row on the *3rd of March 1799*

I have received your note informing me of the Minister's desiring to see me the day after tomorrow, which I have acquainted the Colonel, who directs me to say, that the Governor General having instructed him to require the instant dismissal of Tippoo's vakeels and to make some other communications to the Durbar, you were yesterday applied to for an interview with the Minister, today you give me notice that it is fixed for the day after tomorrow, being the fourth day after application Such delay is very improper. If the Durbar considers an early knowledge of the Governor General's sentiments of no importance, the Colonel says that he can only report this indifference to His Lordship and a wait his orders

* The student's attention is drawn to two important papers, a letter by the G. G. to Tipu Sultan and another to Gen Harris, both dated 22nd February 1799 and printed by Martin, pp 453-465

No. 219—Palmer reports the studied delay of the Peshwa to evade compliance with the requisitions of the Governor General.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th March 1799.

On the 8th instant I had the honour to receive Your Lordship's commands of the 25th ultimo and at the same time received from Mr. Edmonstone your letters to the Paishwa and the Minister and copies of the papers mentioned in the former.

Although Tippoo's ambassadors were not then dismissed, yet as the next day was appointed for the ceremony of their audience of leave, I thought it not inconsistent with the spirit and views of your Lordship's instructions to suspend for so short a time the delivery of the letters requiring their dismissal. I sent immediately to the Minister for the Paishwa's information the copies of your Lordship's correspondence with Tippoo and of your declaration on the advance of the army, accompanied with a request to know whether the Sultaun's vakeels would receive the leave from the Paishwa in the evening as I had been advised.

In answer to this enquiry, Gopal Rao informed me that the Paishwa had gone in the morning to a garden, a small distance from the city, but as Nana had sent to remind him of the audience of the vakeels being fixed for the evening he would no doubt return. He did return, and as the Durbar intelligence reports, summoned the vakeels to attend him, but they excused themselves on account of its being the festival of the Eid and requested that their attendance might be delayed for a day or two.

I waited until noon the next day in expectation that the Durbar would have condescended to give me some notice of the reason of the audience being postponed and information when it would actually take place, when receiving no message and concluding that I had nothing to expect but neglect so long as I remained silent, and knowing by experience that complaint produced only evasive answers and deceitful promise, I sent your Lordship's letters directed to be delivered in the first instance to the Paishwa and the Minister, and I am of opinion that they will instantly produce the desired effect.

I had, prior to the receipt of your Lordship's dispatch, desired interview with the Paishwa and the Minister, with the first for the ostensible purpose of delivering the presents from Lord Clive, but intending to avail myself of the visit to bring into review the conduct of this State in relation to its defensive engagements, and to discover if possible how far it is imputable

to his own disposition and designs I am anxious to see the Minister, as no one point requisite to the advance or services of the Bombay detachment is yet adjusted. But although three days have elapsed since my message, I have received no answer.

These delays are evidently studied to protract or evade the discussion of or compliance with the requisitions which, it must be expected, I have to make on the subject of the Paishwa's co-operation with the allies, and the dismissal of the Mysore vakeels. On the subject of the former I have repeatedly encouraged the Minister to rely on your Lordship's being disposed to make the most liberal allowance for the unhappy situation of this empire. But in the latter where no plea of inability exists, no other construction can be put upon the Paishwa's obstinate perseverance in detaining the vakeels, than a determination to pursue exclusive advantages in violation of his faith, and in opposition to the interests of his allies.

After I had written thus far, I received a note from Gopal Row Moonshy informing me that Tippoo's vakeels received their dismissal from the Paishwa last night, and he desiring permission to wait upon me this evening I hope that this visit of Gopal Rao will enable me to convey to your Lordship tomorrow some determinate information on the ability or disability of the Paishwa to engage in hostilities against the Suldaun.

I am not yet advised of the debarkation of the Bombay detachment.

No. 220—The Resident explains to the Governor General in emphatic and measured terms the character of Bajirao and his attitude towards state affairs.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 12th March 1799

Gopal Row waited upon me yesterday evening according to his appointment. I imagine that this visit was produced by your Lordship's letter, as the principal purposes of it were to excuse the delay in furnishing the Paishwa's contingent to the war and the detention of Tippoo's vakeels. He appealed to my knowledge of the state of affairs for the existence of obstacles which had hitherto unavoidably disqualified the Paishwa for making any progress, either in assembling the quotas of the chiefs of the empire, or in making new levies. Both the Paishwa and the Minister had directed him to give me the strongest assurances

that at no time had they entertained the most distant intention of deviating from the defensive engagements of the State ; on the contrary they were animated by the utmost zeal and sincerity to fulfil them and to take an active and respectable part in the war ; that they were still occupied in such attempts to effect this service, as the difficulties and embarrassments of the Government would admit. Great encouragement had been given to Pursaram Bhow as commanding a force considerable in number and advanced in position, to engage him in the invasion of Tippoo's dominions, and to provide against his refusal by an application to Baba Furkia to accept the command of such force as the Paishwa might be able to collect. But neither of these proposals had yet been answered.

The mission from Tippoo, Gopal Row said, had been proposed and accepted before the aggressions of that Prince were known to the allies. But his vakeels soon after their arrival were made sensible that their master had no favour or support to expect from this Court and only desired permission to wait their recall, that they might avoid the discredit of being dismissed. That however desirous the Paishwa and his Minister were of gratifying them in a request which appeared harmless, they were still more desirous of giving satisfaction to your Lordship, and had therefore dismissed them. It was still their wish, the Moonshy added, to give your Lordship proof on every other occasion of their attachment and respect both for your person and government.

I observed that your Lordship would have the greatest consideration for the inability of the Paishwa to fulfil his engagements, which had been created by the unhappy divisions in this Government and the consequent diminution of his power and authority. But it must be acknowledged that you had but too many reasons to complain of, inattention and disregard to the relations of alliance and amity subsisting between the Company and this State, instances entirely within the Paishwa's control. I enumerated most of the dilatory and vexatious proceedings of the Durbar in my general intercourse with it, the disrespect shown to your Lordship in the neglect to answer your letters in any reasonable time, however important the subjects ; the concealment of transactions in the State from which your Lordship might judge of its capacity to cooperate with the allies and provide against its failure, and the present delay in appointing an agent to attend the Bombay detachment, granting me a passport for cattle which I have provided for it and in settling a fund for the subsidy.

Gopal Row confessed with much humility, that all these causes of complaint ought to have been avoided, but endeavoured to palliate them by pleading the habits of the Durbar and the distractions in the Government, promising that a different conduct should be observed in future.

I then requested of Gopal Row to give me his sincere and candid opinion, whether any reasonable expectation could be formed of this State being able to supply any military aid to the common cause, from any favourable prospect of a change in the situation and pretensions of Dowlut Row Sindia by which the authority of the Paishwa might be restored, and the feudatory chieftains be compelled to furnish the quotas of troops to the State, the Moonshy said, that he could not encourage such expectation, but every means which the Paishwa possessed was employed to prevail on Sindia to retire

But, my Lord, low as the Paishwa's authority is reduced by the power and encroachments of Sindia, it is still further depressed by the defects and blemishes of his own character. His envy, jealousy and distrust will not permit him to repose that confidence in any person which is essential to the success of his affairs. His inconstancy defeats every measure calculated for his service and his avarice makes every employment venal and of course oppressive on the people

The Minister has little power, and frequently feels the effects of the Paishwa's caprice and injustice, in the reversal of his measures and the exposure of his dependants to the extortions of mean and worthless favourites

The vices of the Government and the weakness and depravity of Bajy Row would probably soon produce a revolution or the ruin of the country, if Sindia's forbearance should allow time for those causes to operate. But that chief seems to be meditating either change in the head of the State or the seizure of the Government into his own hands. He has for some days past been in almost incessant consultation with his principal officers, civil and military, and now unequivocally declares, that he will not retire until his family dispute is accommodated, which he must know to be nearly impracticable, as the Bhyes are now out of his reach and under the protection of the Rajah of Koulapore, whose son has been contracted in marriage to a daughter of Mahadjee Sindia

This object is probably a pretext to cover his real designs in continuing in the Deccan, these are supposed to be the obtaining the great wealth which Nana Furnavees is believed to have accumulated, the forming an administration entirely subservient to his influence, or the assuming it himself

He has given no answer to my intimation from your Lordship of a considerable force being continued on the frontier of the Vizier's dominions. But I understand that it has caused some alarm at his Durbar, which is deliberating on a reply.

I have been advised by Lieutenant Colonel Little of the arrival of his detachment at the place of debarkation on the 7th. I am apprehensive that he will be long detained after he has ascended the Ghauts in

a situation where he can be of no service to the common cause or to the Paishwa.

The Paishwa has not yet fixed a day for my waiting on him to present the dress and jewels from Lord Clive; his motive for the delay is, I believe, to avoid my remonstrances on the Mysore Vakeels being still in the city. They are to take leave of Nana this evening, after which I shall insist on their immediate departure.

No. 221—Palmer lucidly exposes the weak points in the position of Sindia and the duplicity and worthless character of the Peshwa upon whom Nana Fadnis had no influence. The latter rarely advises.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 15th March 1799.

My Lord,

On the 13th Gunput Roy, Colonel Collins's Muttasuddy, waited upon me by desire of Sindia in consequence of your Lordship's intimation that you had thought it expedient to continue the Company's troops assembled on the frontier of Oude, Sindia observing that as the retreat of Zemaun Shah had removed all apprehension of invasion and as it was contrary to the usual practice of our Government to maintain its army in the field in time of tranquillity, he wished to be informed of your Lordship's motive for the present arrangement.

I desired Gunput Roy to acquaint Sindia that I was not informed of your Lordship's reason for continuing this precautionary measure, but that certainly the friends of the Company would have nothing to apprehend from it. Gunput Roy says that it has created considerable alarm at Sindia's Durbar.

Baboo Row Angria, Sindia's maternal uncle, and who is in his highest confidence, has more than once insinuated to Gunput Roy that if your Lordship wished for the aid of Sindia in the war against Tippoo, he would be happy to afford it. But that money was indispensable to the movement of his troops. Baboo Row did not authorize Gunput Roy to communicate these hints to me. But I desired the latter, in case of the suggestion being repeated, to tell Baboo Row that although it was my opinion your Lordship would not have occasion for the assistance of any of Sindia's troops, and still less be disposed to engage them on subsidy,

if he had any specific proposals to make I would transmit them for your Lordship's determination. My view in holding out this degree of encouragement is to restrain Sindia from forming any connection with Tippoo injurious to the Company, and to which it is possible he may be driven by the desperate state of his affairs

Gunput Roy informed me, that Sindia and his ministers are greatly alarmed by intelligence of a treaty concluded between the Rajah of Koulapore and Pursaram Bhow, of which the principal object is to support the cause of the Bhyes

Abba Chitnawees by wise and moderate counsel has diverted Sindia from making some very unjust and offensive claims on the Paishwa, desiring him before he proceeded to extremities, to reflect seriously on his own situation, without money, and without friends, the Paishwa, the Nazim and Ragoojee Bhonsla his enemies; the British Government displeased with him for obstructing the purposes of the alliance with this State; dissensions in his family, and sedition in his army This representation of his danger and distress has induced Sindia to relax in his demands, and he has finally proposed to march to Corygaon, or Jamgaon, on condition of the Paishwa's engaging either to accommodate the differences with his family, or to force them out of his dominions in the period of one month, that he shall be permitted to return and pursue his own measures, if the Paishwa fails in this engagement, but will proceed to Hindostan if it is fulfilled I have not heard whether the Paishwa has yet answered this proposal But there is too much reason to apprehend that this or any other amicable agreement would be frustrated by the views of interested persons in both parties, if not by the mutual distrust, insincerity and hatred of the principals, as has happened in former engagements of a similar nature.

I am concerned to acquaint your Lordship that Tippoo's vakeels are still in the city. After a second remonstrance on this subject, I have just now received an answer from Gopal Rao that they are detained only by the want of carriage, and I learn from the spies whom I have placed near their habitation that they disposed of their cattle soon after their arrival, and are now purchasing others I shall use every means in my power to prevent their departure being protracted on this pretext, and if these should prove ineffectual within a reasonable time, I will carry into execution your Lordship's orders of the 25th ultimo, directing the return of Lieutenant Colonel Little's detachment to Bombay.

Notwithstanding the professions of the Paishwa's disposition so recently made to promote to the utmost of his power the objects of the triple alliance, I have already a strong proof of either his insincerity or of his inability to prevent his servants from sacrificing the most important public interests to their private emolument. I had, at the desire of Mr Duncan, provided draught and carriage cattle for the service of the detachment on

hire. These have been ready for dispatch several days, but all my efforts to obtain a passport from the Paishwa for their passage have proved fruitless; and the reason assigned for it is that I ought to have contracted with the Chowdry of the city for the cattle and not with a private person, the meaning of which is that by my preferring the latter mode, Moonshy Gopal Row has lost a perquisite, and the commanding officer of the detachment is in this article relieved from the vexations and impediments to which he would have been exposed if the contractor was under the influence of the Durbar. As the guns and stores of the detachment cannot be removed until the cattle arrive, and supplies of grain cannot be procured and a bazar formed until it ascends the Ghauts, I have been compelled to declare that if the purwanah is any longer refused, I must of necessity direct the return of the detachment. I have not yet been able even to obtain the dispatch of an agent from the Durbar, and a pass for my Assistant to repair to the detachment. These, indeed, are promised to be expedited this day, but I have not any sort of reliance on any assurance from this Court.

Gopal Row acknowledges that the Minister has little or no influence in these matters. He is permitted to advise, but every measure is decided by Naroo Punt Chuckerdeo, a man who has gained a complete ascendancy over the mind of the Paishwa and who is capable of making the worst uses of it. The indisposition of this worthless favourite is now assigned as a reason for the Paishwa's delaying to receive my visit for the purpose of delivering Lord Clive's present. I made a mistake in one of my letters to your Lordship in mentioning Naroo Punt as Nana's agent to the Paishwa. He is the Paishwa's Agent to the Minister.

No. 222—The Resident refuses to pay a visit to the Peshwa until Tipu's Vakils depart from the City.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th March 1799.

My Lord,

After much altercation with Moonshy Gopal Row, I have at length obtained the dispatch of the cattle which I had hired for the use of the Bombay detachment and a passport for my Assistant to repair to it. But no agent on the part of this Government is yet appointed to attend the detachment, nor is its destination and route yet imparted to me. I will,

however, on the arrival of the cattle be in a condition to return to Bombay if that measure should become necessary.

On further remonstrance to the Minister of the impropriety and deception in suffering the Mysore vakeels to remain so long after their audience of leave, and desiring him seriously to reflect on the contents of your Lordship's last letters to himself and the Paishwa, he sent yesterday an order to them to depart instantly. They are notwithstanding still in the city, and I have in consequence declined an appointment of the Paishwa to wait upon him tomorrow to present the dress and jewels from Lord Clive, delaring that I cannot have the honour of attending him until Tippoo's vakeels shall have set out on their return to Surungputtum.

It would be ineffectual to direct Lieut Colonel Little to return to Bombay before he is supplied with draught and carriage cattle. These will join him in the course of five or six days, at the expiration of which I shall dispatch an order for that purpose, unless the departure of the Vakeels should take place in the mean time.

No apparent change has occurred in the situation of the Paishwa and Dowlut Row Sindia since my last address, but it is confidently reported that an agreement has been concluded between them, by which Sindia is engaged to march within a few days to Corygaon at the distance of about 8 coss from Poona, and there to wait a certain period for the accommodation of his family dispute by the interposition of the Paishwa.

No. 223—The Resident analyses the causes of the weak position of the Peshwa and Sindia and reports to the G. G. the Peshwa's inability to send his contingent to join the British expedition against Tipu.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 22nd March 1799

My Lord,

My intimation to the Paishwa, mentioned in my last address, that I must decline the honour of waiting upon him until the departure of Tippoo's vakeels, has produced the effect of removing them from the city, which they left with much reluctance and heavy complaint on the 19th and encamped at a garden in the neighbourhood. I shall adhere to my resolution while they remain in this position, and have objected to any further delay; but I apprehend that it will be permitted during the

celebration of the festival of the Holie, as in this season of general rejoicing it will be difficult to prevail on their attendants to move; and as it will expire by the time in which I compute that Lt.-Col. Little will have received the cattle for the use of his detachment, I shall suspend the notice which I intend to give the Paishwa of the return of the troops to Bombay, if the vakeels should then be here.

I do not conceive that the Paishwa has any improper motive in allowing them to continue here after having compelled them to leave the city, in a manner which they have loudly asserted to be violent and insulting. He would not have proceeded to so offensive a measure, unless he had finally rejected the Sultaun's proposals. Of consequence he has nothing to expect from him, nor can have any inducement to give him further encouragement by protracting the dismissal of his vakeels.

I am not certain whether the presence of these people has had any influence in the dilatory proceedings of this Government respecting its contingent. But it is very probable that the Paishwa has urged his negligence on this head as an instance of his favourable disposition towards Tippoo, and as a claim to recompense. I am, however, of opinion that the causes of failure are of a nature to afford little prospect of the contingent levies being advanced by the departure of the Mysore Vakeels. The feudatory chieftains appear to be more intent on preserving or extending their jagheers, than on contributing their quotas to the service of the State. I can obtain no information from the Minister of the state of the Paishwa's requisition for troops. He still answers my enquiries by pretending that he waits for Pursaram Bhow's determination to accept or decline the command, although I am well assured of that officer having made demands which are equivalent to a refusal.

Babu Furkia has also required terms of a pecuniary nature for accepting the charge of the contingent, with which the Paishwa is unable to comply, and I am informed that it is now in contemplation to bestow it on Dhoondia Punt Ghokla, who is in command of a body of the Paishwa's troops stationed for the protection of the cash collections in the south-west frontier. His present force consists of about 10,000 horse and foot, and he has been directed to augment it to 15,000. But the carrying into execution either this or any other arrangement which the Durbar may have in view, must, I apprehend be suspended until a final settlement takes place between the Paishwa and Sindia, as every measure is liable to obstruction or disappointment from the influence of the latter.--

It appears that no agreement is yet concluded for the march of Dowlut Row; although the conditions mentioned in my last address have been approved by both parties; mutual distrust and suspicion cause hesitation and delay and must, I think, always operate against an accommodation and terminate in violence.

I cannot perceive by what means Sindia can satisfy the arrears of his troops and provide for their future subsistence. He may obtain a temporary supply of money by exactions from individuals, but when that is exhausted, no resource appears to be left to him except that of subjecting the possessions of the State to plunder. His Government in Hindostan is in the greatest disorder. The insurgents under Lacawa Dada joined by some independent chiefs of the Grassia tribe, have repeatedly defeated his detachments and have reduced the country from Ogeine to Seronge while Ambajee and M Perron are fully occupied in the siege of Agra held by Lacawa's adherents and in opposing the Rajah of Dattiah who has espoused the cause of the revolters.

Notwithstanding daily application to the Minister, I cannot obtain any information of the route by which the Bombay detachment is to ascend the Ghauts. An agent is appointed to attend it for the purposes of facilitating its march and supplies, but the pretext of the holidays detains him here. It is, however, probable that it is not yet known where to direct its junction. Some feeble efforts will probably now be made by the Paishwa to preserve the appearance of good faith, but I have no opinion of his ability to maintain an effectual force for the invasion of the Sultaun's dominions, or to pass his own frontiers and form a junction with the troops of the allies.

No. 224—Palmer writing to the Governor General says that violence and perfidy are the usual means employed, and injustice the end proposed, in all the transactions of the Maratha people

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 25th March 1799

My Lord,

I have just now been informed by Sheshaudry Pundit that Sindia has unequivocally declared to the Paishwa his resolution to remain in his present situation until his family dispute is accommodated, and that the Paishwa and Nana Furnawees despairing of relief from the oppression and insolence of this assuming chieftain, are deliberating on the means of escape.

This information sufficiently corresponds with the actual state of things and the measure seems to be the most prudent, or perhaps the only one which can be adopted for the safety of the Paishwa, and to embarrass Sindia. Their mutual and incurable distrust will for ever prevent an accommodation, if it were even possible to reconcile the power and necessities of Sindia with the independence of the Paishwa. It is supposed that the latter will, if he can, effect a retreat, repair to the camp of the Bhyes, and that he has some reliance on the junction of Pursaram and other feudatory chiefs.

This expectation of support from the great jagheerdars in the event of an open rupture with Sindia, seems to be not unreasonable, as they must know that the possessions exclusively appropriated to the head of the State, would be inadequate to the support of Sindia's army and consequently must apprehend the loss of their own, and perceive that the danger is to be averted only by their union in defence of the established government.

The practicability of this meditated flight appears to me very doubtful. Sindia can scarcely be unsuspecting of it after the extremities to which he has driven the Paishwa and the Minister, and he can easily prevent it and will probably anticipate it by securing their persons. But if it should be effected I shall conceive it to be my duty to attend the Paishwa and shall repair to his Durbar wherever it may be fixed, unless I should receive your Lordship's commands to the contrary before my intention can take place.

I have received the Paishwa's directions for the Bombay detachment to ascend the Ghauts, and to halt near an encampment of Mahdarow Rasta on the Darwar road, until its further route and point of junction can be settled, which is promised in the course of three or four days. My Assistant and an Agent from the Durbar will set out tomorrow to join Lieut.-Colonel Little.

Tippoo's Vakeels are still here on the pretext of being unable to move until the holidays are over, of which only two days remain. I have no reason to believe that they will be detained after that period, nor can I conceive what subterfuge can be found by this Court to excuse persevering any longer in opposition to your Lordship's just remonstrances and to the spirit of the Paishwa's obligations in the defensive alliance. I am not inclined to attribute the conduct of the Paishwa in the detention of the Vakeels to the wish or overruling influence of Sindia, as Azim-ul-Omra (in his conference with Azeez-Oolla on the 10th instant) states to have been informed by Anund Row. The necessity of yielding to Sindia's power was a much more justifiable plea than any which the Paishwa has urged in extenuation of this proceeding, and would at the same time have operated to diminish the credit and ascendancy of Sindia by drawing upon:

him the expression of your Lordship's displeasure. And I cannot conjecture why the Minister should conceal this justification from me when he made no secret of Sindia's opposition to the Bombay detachment coming to Poona.

Sheshaudry Pundit says that he expostulated with Nana Furnawees on the detention of the Mysore Vakeels, who asked him why he reproached him with this measure when he knew that he had no power to prevent it. If the displeasure which your Lordship has shown and the frequent remonstrances which I had made on a proceeding so incompatible with the Paishwa's engagements, had been disregarded, what could be expected from the little influence which he possessed?

The embassy from Tippoo was no doubt originally admitted and encouraged in the hope of obtaining money from him, but the protracting it after this prospect was closed and the Vakeels had received their audience of leave, seems to be merely the result of the Paishwa's pride and obstinacy. If however, the Vakeels should not proceed on their return immediately after the holidays, it may be inferred that the Paishwa, in persisting to act in defiance of his engagements to the allies, has a view to security and recompense in a connection with Tippoo, although I am unable to conceive any advantage which the latter can derive from such a connection except in the Paishwa's neutrality, and Tippoo can scarcely be ignorant that this Government is necessarily reduced to that state without his paying for it.

Dowlut Row Sindia is to return to his cantonments near the city this day, but for what purpose I am not informed. I hear that he is resolved on a change of ministers, and that Raejee Patel is to succeed Abba Chitnawees, a change which confirms the opinion of Sindia's determination to pursue his designs against the Paishwa. He seems to be wholly indifferent to the disorders of his Government in Hindostan and the dangers to which it is exposed from the successes of Lakawa Dada, and to have no other concern than that of raising money to appease the clamours of his troops and to provide for his pleasures.

The Bhyes are becoming more formidable to him by daily augmentation of their force. The indiscriminate ravage which they commit, allures numbers of needy and profligate persons to their standard. They have treacherously seized the person of the Rajah of Koulapore, whom they invited to meet them for the purpose of forming an alliance with him. On the faith of this invitation he repaired to their camp with an inferior force, when they surrounded him and his troops and extorted from him an obligation for ten lacs of rupees and they detain him to secure the payment of it. Violence or perfidy are the usual means employed and injustice the end proposed in all the transactions of the Mahratta people.

No. 225—Palmer informs the Governor General that the Maratha State was totally disqualified by its poverty and dissensions for taking an active part against Tipu Sultan. Nana Fadnis who was only a figure head also confessed as much, says he.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 29th March 1799.

My Lord,

Sindia returned to his cantonments on the 25th. He is in constant negotiation with the Paishwa and Nana Furnawees for the accommodation of his dispute with his parents, professing his determination to march into Hindostan as soon as that point is accomplished. But he is in reality meditating to effect it by other means and such as indicate a change in the Poona Government and his continuance in the Deccan. He is deliberating (if he has not already resolved on) the recall of Balloo Tautia to the administration of his affairs. This Minister is attached to the Byes, and Lacawa Dada is his dependant. Sindia therefore hopes by his influence and connection to appease the commotions of his Government both here and in Hindostan. Balloo Tautia is the avowed enemy of the Paishwa, Nana Furnawees and Azim-ul-Omrah, by whose counsels he was disgraced and confined, and it is supposed that his power will be exerted in the gratification of his resentment which, against Azim-ul-Omrah, he can indulge in no other way than by stimulating Sindia to invade the Nazim's dominions.

It is reported, and with circumstances of probability, that the Bhyes have engaged Pursaram Bhow in their cause and intend to repair with the united force to Poona. This transaction is said to be combined with the recall of Balloo Tautia and to threaten the ruin of the Paishwa and Minister, notwithstanding that Pursaram Bhow has lately been reconciled to both under solemn engagements.

In this perilous situation, the Minister urges the Paishwa to withdraw and purposes to accompany him, but their mutual distrust is likely to prevent their executing this scheme in concert. And if the danger should be certain, Nana will probably retire alone, but as yet all is uncertainty and confusion, and no person pretends even to conjecture how these distractions will terminate, although it is evident that Sindia's increasing necessities must compel him to some immediate decision.

While the Paishwa and the Minister are thus constantly occupied by cares for their personal safety, and by the pressing requisitions of Sindia, I can obtain but little attention to my remonstrances on the delay in providing the contingent and the want of such communication as ought to be made to me, of the Paishwa's ability or inability to fulfil his defensive

engagements. The only answers given to my enquiries are promises from day to day to satisfy them

It may, however, be determined without waiting for information from the Durbar, that this State is totally disqualified by its poverty and dissensions for taking an active part against the common enemy, and it is perhaps only the apprehension of the other allies renouncing its alliance that prevents an avowal of its incapacity, although the Paishwa must be conscious that he can have no claim to participate in the benefits of a treaty, in which he as a party fails in his engagements.

Tippoo's Vakeels commenced their march on the 25th which was sooner than I expected. But as I was informed that they halted on the 26th and 27th I expostulated with the Minister on this further delay, and requested to know the reason of it. In answer to my message he desired to see Meer Fikir-ul-Dien last night. When the latter waited upon him, he said that his reason for wishing to see him was to give personally the most solemn assurances of all intercourse between the Durbar and the Vakeels being closed and of their having halted without his knowledge, until they sent to require letters to the Rajah of Koulapore and other chiefs in-arms for their safe conduct, which had been refused on the apprehension of the Paishwa's authority being contemned by those chieftains, and the Vakeels had been required to prosecute their journey without delay.

Nana informed Meer Fikir-ul-Dien that Pursaram Bhow had declined the charge of the Paishwa's contingent on the necessity he was under of defending his own dominions against the Rajah of Koulapore, that in consequence of this refusal Dhoondia Punt Ghokla had been directed to prepare his force for a junction with the Bombay detachment and to prosecute the war against Tippoo, and that from his answer, which is expected in three or four days, it will be known whether he is in a condition to undertake this service. The Minister took this opportunity of repeating his declarations of his most sincere intention and wish to maintain and improve the alliance between the Company and this State, and to fulfil the defensive engagements of the latter in the war now commenced, but that he could only be answerable for the success of those objects in proportion to the state of the country and of his own authority, and these were circumstances of such public notoriety as to require no explanation.

My Assistant and an agent on the part of the Paishwa, have proceeded to attend Lieutenant Colonel Little, I shall earnestly press the advance of the detachment to the frontiers.

I have authorised my Assistant to provide such an establishment of servants as may be indispensable to the due performance of the extraneous services to which he is appointed, and I hope for your Lordship's permission to appoint Captain DeCourey, the second Officer of my Escort,

to the temporary charge of acting Assistant, with the same allowances as were granted to Mr. Uhthoff's substitute when that gentleman attended the Paishwa's contingent. I can perfectly rely on Captain De Courey's integrity, discretion and capacity.

No. 226—The Governor General sends instructions to Col. Little in cipher and asks the Resident to report to him an account of the Gaikwad family and their relations with the Poona Court.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort St. George, 19th March 1799.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 5th instant.

The attempt of the Court of Poona to divert the services of the detachment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Little from their proper object, does not surprize me. It is consistent with the policy which, for some time past, has governed their conduct towards the British Government.

You will continue steadily to resist the attempt whenever it may be renewed.

I enclose a letter for Lieutenant Colonel Little, which you will forward with all practicable expedition to that officer. A copy of this letter is also enclosed for your information.

I conclude that either Lieutenant Colonel Little or your Assistant has been furnished with a copy of the cypher No. 11 and I have therefore written to Colonel Little in that cypher. You will take the precaution of sending an attested copy of the enclosed letter to Lieutenant Colonel Little at a proper interval after having dispatched the original to him.

I wish you to communicate to me regularly by every mail whatever advices may reach you relative to the movements and operations, as well of Ambajee as of any of the insurgents of Sindia's government.

You will be pleased to furnish me as soon as possible with as full and distinct an account of the present state of the Guikwar family, and of the views and disposition both of the reigning Rajah and of the Court of

Poona, with respect to the succession to that principality, as you may be able to procure without betraying any extraordinary solicitude or curiosity on the subject.

No. 227—The Resident reports to the G. G. that the affairs of the Maratha Govt. were drawing to a crisis. He also reports a grand conference held by the Peshwa for a solution of his difficulties when he humbled himself before Nana requesting him to extend his support to his Govt.

FROM—THE RESIDENT,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 1st April 1799

My Lord,

The affairs of this Government seem to be drawing to a crisis. The principal and determined object of Sindia is to raise money by whatever means for the liquidation of the arrears of his army. He prefers as the most efficacious mode of obtaining the sum which he requires, to conciliate Nana Furnawees by establishing and supporting his authority in the administration in any manner which he may propose, even to the deposal of the Peshwa. If Nana should decline his advance, he will endeavour to secure his person and to accomplish his purpose by rigour. Should this measure prove ineffectual he has no resource for supplying his immediate exigencies but in extorting money from opulent individuals and the plunder of the city of Poona, and to this he will undoubtedly resort.

On the 30th the Paishwa, Chimna Appa, Nana Furnawees and Abba Chitnawees had a long conference at a garden near town assisted by a few persons in the confidence of the Paishwa, Dowlut Row Sindia, and the Minister. From the result of this conference it is probable that Sindia will take his final resolutions.

Nana Furnawees is firmly of opinion that retreat is preferable to trusting to any engagement with Sindia. But I understand that his apprehension of the Paishwa's revealing the scheme to Dowlut Row, has deterred him from explicitly proposing it, and he has hitherto only suggested it through his agents to sound the Paishwa's inclination. Nana, perhaps, would not resist the temptation of power held out to him, if he could place any confidence in the faith of Sindia.

Tippoo's Vakeels seem to be at last actually retiring from the Paishwa's dominions, having made two successive marches yesterday and this day.

I was last night honoured with your Lordship's commands of the 19th instant and have forwarded the letter enclosed to Lieut-Colonel Little. I have not lately heard from that Officer, but have dispatched the cattle required for his detachment. I hope he is now on his march thro' the pass to the upper country.

I shall convey to your Lordship the earliest and best information which I can procure of the state of the Guicawar family and the views of this Court in the succession to the Subahdary of Guzerat.

By intelligence received from Hindostan within these two days, Ambajee and M. Perron were still occupied in the siege of Agra. I forward to Mr. Edmonstone, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a Persian newspaper, which I received yesterday from Colonel Collins's news-writer in Lacawa Dada's camp, in which, I believe, both the situation and views of that chieftain are stated with considerable accuracy.

The insurgents of Sindia's government in this quarter are now united with the Rajah of Koulapore, and their force had advanced within ten coss of Pursaram Bhow, but it is not ascertained whether the design of the Bhyes was to attack that chief or to propose a union of interests. In the latter event the confederates would be very formidable to Sindia, by their great superiority in cavalry.

The Paishwa made a visit to Nana Furnaweels last night, at which as I am informed by Sheshaudry Pundit, he pressed the Minister with solicitude to rely with perfect security on his just and honourable intentions towards him and on his determination to follow his advice implicitly in all his concerns. Nana answered, that in accepting the administration he had no view but to promote the welfare of the state and the due authority of the Paishwa; and as the unhappy state of affairs rendered these objects unattainable by any means which he possessed, he wished to retire. Bajy Row repeated the encouragement which he had given the Minister to confide in him, entreated him not to abandon him in the present extremity, and proposed to remove to Nana's entire satisfaction, any apprehensions which he entertained of Emrut Row. The Minister made no reply but appeared to acquiesce in the Paishwa's wishes.

It was agreed at this meeting to comply with Sindia's requisition of being paid before he marches, six lacs of rupees for which the Paishwa had given him accepted drafts on bankers, to be discharged on his arrival at Jamgown. I believe that neither the Paishwa nor the Minister put any trust in Sindia's engagement to retire when he receives this money. But their object is to leave him without excuse, if he violates his faith.

No. 228—The Governor General strictly enjoins Col. Little to march towards Seringapattam with all possible expedition and to engage in no other military operations except those directed against Tipu.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—LIEUT.-COL. LITTLE.

Fort St. George, 19th March 1799.

Sir,

I have been advised by the Government of Bombay of your appointment to command the detachment of the Company's troops destined to act in conjunction with the forces of the Paishwa against Tippoo Sultaun. It has afforded me great satisfaction that the choice of the Government of Bombay has fallen on an officer of your experience and approved merit.

The Government of Bombay have communicated to me their instructions of the 1st instant. In addition to those instructions I judge it necessary to direct that you omit no effort in your power to engage the person in command of the Paishwa's forces to commence without delay active offensive operations against Tippoo Sultaun. The particular point or object to which those operations should be directed must depend on circumstances, and on such requisitions or instructions as you may receive from the Commander-in-Chief. But it appears on general grounds to be of the utmost importance that the Mahratta forces, together with the detachment under your command, should advance with all practicable expedition towards Surungputtum, where I trust, General Harris will arrive by the 24th instant.

Your former experience will suggest to you the expediency of endeavouring to persuade the Mahratta commander to bring on with him whenever he shall advance towards Surungputtum, the largest possible supplies of provisions of every kind.

It is not improbable that an attempt may be made by Pursaram Bhow, or the Mahratta officer in command on the southern frontier of the Paishwa's dominions, to employ your detachment against some of the Mahratta feudatories in that quarter, who are represented to be in a state of rebellion. You will firmly resist every application of this nature and you will take no part in any military operations which shall in any respect be foreign to the direct object of your expedition which is hostility against Tippoo Sultaun. If Pursaram Bhow should be the person at the head of the Mahratta force with which your detachment is destined to act, I shall hope from his well known disposition with regard to Tippoo and from your intimate knowledge of him, that you will not experience

much difficulty in demonstrating to him the superior advantages to be derived by him from an active and cordial co-operation with the Company's armies against the common enemy.

Any depending claims on refractory tributaries will be prosecuted by Pursaram Bhow with more decided effect after the conclusion of the present war with Tippoo Sultaun.

You will communicate as constantly as possible with Lieut.-General Harris, and Lieut.-General Stuart, incurring any reasonable expense for this purpose. You will also advise me from time to time of all material occurrences in the quarter where your detachment is to act, forwarding your dispatches to me in duplicate, or one copy to Poona, and the other to Hyderabad by the way of Kopal and Bhader-Nagur (in the Nizam's territories). The Resident at Hyderabad will be instructed to take the necessary measures for stationing a proper person at Kopal for the purpose of forwarding your letters from thence. In the meantime you may confidently address them to the care of the Talookdar of that place, who is a dependent of Meer Allum.

This letter is dispatched to you in duplicate, one copy by Poona and the other by the route of Kopal through the Resident at Hyderabad.

No. 229—The Governor General sends instructions to the commanding officer of the Bombay Detachment about his movements.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—LIEUT.-COL. LITTLE.

Fort St. George, 22nd March 1799.

Sir,

The tenor of my latest advices from Colonel Palmer induces me to apprehend that the existing Government of Poona is not likely to avail itself, in an effectual manner, of the services of the detachment under your command by employing that detachment, together with its own forces, in active operations against Tippoo Sultaun.

Under these circumstances it is extremely doubtful whether you may be able to procure from the Mahratta Government (according to the arrangement which appears to have been made by Colonel Palmer) the necessary supplies of cattle for enabling you to put your detachment in motion from Jeyghur.

These considerations have suggested to me the necessity of adopting immediate measures with a view to the recall of your detachment and to the application of its respectable force to more beneficial purposes

I have therefore requested the Admiral or Commander of His Majesty's ships upon the Malabar Coast, by whom this letter* will be forwarded to you, to take the requisite measures for re-embarking your detachment, whenever you shall signify your wishes for that purpose to the naval Officer who may be sent to the port of Jeyghur.

In any of the three following cases you will re-embark without delay.

1st If you shall have been detained at Jeyghur either through want of cattle or any other cause proceeding from the Mahrattas until this letter shall reach you

2nd If no funds for the regular payment of your detachment shall have yet been satisfactorily ascertained

3rd. If the state of affairs on the Mahratta frontier shall manifestly be such, as to preclude all reasonable hope of Pursaram Bhow's inclination or power to engage immediately in active operations against Tippoo Sultaun

In any of these three cases you are immediately to re-embark your detachment, advising the proper officers of the Mahratta Government and the Resident at Poona accordingly.

You will proceed with the detachment under your command, after the re-embarkation of it, either to the coast of Malabar or to Bombay according to the orders which you shall receive for the purpose, from the Commissioners in Malabar or from the Government of Bombay.

No. 230—Palmer writes news to the Governor General as to the situation of the Peshwa and Sindia and the latter's war against the Bais. Bajirao applied to the Governor General for a loan of 10 lacs

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 5th April 1799.

My Lord,

The Paishwa having, as I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my last address, complied with the requisition of Sindia to advance to him in his cantonments the six lacs of rupees, which it had been agreed should be paid on his arrival at Jaumgaon, that Chieftain

assembled his military commanders, European and Native, and acquainted them with his intention to proceed into Hindostan in consequence of the Paishwa's engagement to reconcile his differences with the Bhyes, or to oppose any attempts which they might make to injure his interests in the Deccan. The European Officers declined to give any opinion on a measure which they considered as merely political. But the Mahratta Sirdars (previously restored by Baboo Row Angria) declared that they would not proceed to Hindostan until the dispute with the Bhyes was adjusted, as their families settled in the Deccan would be exposed to the resentment of those ladies.

Sindia made this declaration a pretext for retracting his engagement to march ; and has formed a detachment of two thousand Deccan Cavalry and four Battalions of Infantry under the orders of Baboo Row Angria, with powers to that chief to bring the quarrel to a final issue, either by negotiation or arms.

Abba Chitnawees had engaged Bikram Chela who is Sindia's agent to the Corps of regular infantry and has a great ascendancy over the mind of his Master, and had also engaged the commanders of those Corps to support his efforts for the removal of Sindia from Poona. But the intrigue was discovered and disconcerted by Baboo Row Angria and Abba Chitnawees will probably be ruined by the attempt.

Baboo Row Angria is the maternal uncle of Dowlut Row Sindia and chief of the small independent district of Colabba, which yields a land revenue of about four lacs of rupees, but the Government subsists principally by piracy. The possession is disputed by another branch of the family, and Baboo Row could not maintain himself in it without the powerful assistance of Sindia. Hence his constant advice and unwearied endeavours to detain the latter in the Deccan, and these are but too well seconded by the selfish views of Raeyjee Patel, Jadhoo Row Basker, Bhow Bukshy, and other Sirdars, who have most influence in Sindia's counsels.

I do not know whether the Paishwa will derive a temporary relief from the designs of Sindia in consequence of the plan adopted by the latter for the decision of his family quarrel. But this leaves a force in cantonments scarcely adequate to any measure of coercion, if the Paishwa should determine to resist. Of 20 battalions of Sepoys composing the whole of Sindia's Infantry, eleven battalions are detached with more than half his Cavalry, which altogether does not exceed 5,000. The Paishwa's force in the city and near it, is at least 4,000 Cavalry and 10,000 Infantry, wretched indeed in discipline and equipment, but certainly capable if they have the least spirit of defending the Paishwa and the city against an attack by the force which will remain with Sindia, after Baboo Row actually proceeds against the Bhyes. He is yet within two coss of cantonments.

It does not appear, however, that this diminution of Sindia's strength in the vicinity of Poona has inspired much confidence in the Paishwa or his Minister, or in the inhabitants of the city. The former are reported to be still meditating the means of flight, and the latter are occupied in endeavours to secure their habitations and effects. Circumstances are favourable to the intended retreat. The Paishwa's cavalry, superior in number to any which Sindia can immediately assemble, might conduct him in safety beyond the reach of danger. But I doubt his firmness and resolution to make the attempt

Moonshy Gopal Row two days ago desired to have a meeting with my Moonshy, of which the purposes were to request a loan of ten or twelve lacs of rupees to the Paishwa from the Company and permission to employ the Bombay detachment against the refractory chieftains of this State. Meer Fukir-ul-Dien expressed his surprize at these extraordinary requisitions after the conduct of this Court relating to its defensive engagements and the return which had been made to your Lordship's friendly and liberal proposals for restoring the Paishwa's authority and providing for the security and independence of his Government. Nor could he conceive what advantage could accrue from the loan of such a sum, in the ruined state of the Paishwa's affairs. To this observation Gopal Row answered, that the money was wanted to put the contingent in motion, and acknowledged that Dhoondia Punt Gokhla had stated that he could not advance without it

On receiving Moonshy Fukir-ul-Dien's report of this conversation, I immediately directed him to inform Gopal Row that both the propositions which he had made in the name of the Paishwa, were inadmissible and that I was surprized the Paishwa should expect pecuniary assistance from his allies, when he had thrown the whole burthen of the war upon them; and I desired to know what prospect or intention there was of effecting a junction of the Bombay detachment with any part of the Paishwa's forces, or whether I was to remain in endless suspense on this subject.

This message produced an answer from Gopal Row very profuse in professions of the Paishwa's attachment to the Company, reminding me of the zeal with which this State co-operated with the allies in the late war, and asserted the Paishwa's sincere desire to evince the same disposition in the present contest. But money was indispensable to this effect, and it could not be immediately procured without your Lordship's assistance. The sum was an inconsiderable object to the Company, but would produce material consequences by enabling the Paishwa's contingent to enter upon immediate hostilities against the common enemy

Supposing this loan could be obtained and should be applied to the purpose for which it is professedly solicited, I have great doubt of its

producing any considerable advantage to the common cause. Dhoondia Punt's force is small and could not be much augmented by the aid of such a fund, and he himself is a person of no weight or repute in the army or State.

It is probable that the Paishwa's object in desiring to employ the detachment in his exclusive service is to draw it nearer to Poona to favour his escape, if he should resolve on that measure. Such a movement would, in some degree, accord with your Lordship's sentiments of the benefits to be derived from a stationary detachment of the Company's troops at Poona. But your subsequent injunction both to Colonel Little and me, preclude any consideration of employing the detachment on services not directly hostile to Tippoo. I have suggested this contingency, as it is possible that your Lordship may deem the mere protection of the Paishwa's person an exception to your general prohibition.

I have received no intelligence either from or of Colonel Little for 15 days past. I can in no other way account for this want of communication than by the miscarriage of his letters or mine, as he must be in want of money for the detachment, and I advised him on the 23rd ultimo that I had, by Mr. Duncan's desire, provided a sum to answer his abstracts for this month.

The Guicwar's Vakeel informs me, that he has consented to the Minister's assignment upon him for the discharge of the subsidy for the detachment, but the agreement is not yet formally executed. Inconsiderable as the sum is, the Minister requires to disburse it by only three annual instalments. I have insisted upon quarterly payments after having in vain contended for their being made monthly. Nana Furnawees has no other view in contesting so trifling an object than to impress a general belief of his extreme poverty. But he will not expose this Government to pecuniary claims of the Company by failing in any engagement of that nature.

On a cursory enquiry into the state of the Guicwar family, I learn that the present Rajah Gobind Row has four sons, the eldest of whom is in confinement for repeated acts of rebellion; the second is an idiot, the third is the favourite of his father, but his mother being a woman of inferior caste he is not generally deemed eligible to the succession. The fourth son is a child of about 7 or 8 years of age, who resides with his mother at a village about ten coss from Poona. This child is supposed to be most likely to succeed, as no disqualification attaches to him. And if the Soubahdary should become vacant under the present circumstances of his minority and local situation, so favourable to the influence of this Court, his succession may be regarded as certain.

By a news-paper which I received yesterday from Lacawa Dada's camp, I find that he is about 40 coss north of Ogeine. I cannot exactly learn his force, but from my recollection of his original strength and

the subsequent junction of confederates it amounts to 15 or 16,000 men, and he has a good train of artillery.

The Bhye's army and that of Pursaram Bhow are within ten coss of each other, and it is reported that a junction of their forces is intended

No. 231—The Governor General communicates to the Peshwa the British victory at Sideswar over Tipu Sultan

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE PESHWA.

Written, 24th March 1799

It is with great pleasure I have to communicate to Your Highness the success of the British forces on the coast of Malabar, in repelling an attack made upon them by the army of Tippoo Sultaun on the frontier of the Coorga country

On the 6th of March, a body of Tippoo Sultaun's troops, consisting of from 10 to 15,000 men, marched from his camp at Periapatam and attacked the advance of General Stuart's army, consisting of only 3 battalions making altogether less than 3,000 men, which was stationed at Sudasere,* a place on the frontier of the Coorga country, about four coss distant from the Sultaun's encampment. Notwithstanding the vast superiority of numbers on the part of the enemy they were unable to make any impression upon the British troops, who repulsed them in every attack until General Stewart, with a reinforcement of about 1,200 Europeans from the main army, joining the detachment which had sustained the attack, completely routed the Sultaun's troops, who retreated with very heavy loss to their camp. The troops of the enemy were headed by many officers of rank and importance among whom several were killed and taken prisoners, of the former were the Binky Nabob and Syed Ghuffar. The loss on the part of the British was very inconsiderable. It is understood that Tippoo Sultaun himself directed this unsuccessful attack, as his own tent was pitched at Periapatam in the camp from which his troops marched to Sudasere. Your Highness will observe that the attack was made before the troops under General Stuart had passed the boundary of Tippoo Sultaun's country, and before he could have heard of the army under Lieut. General Harris having entered his territory. I beg leave to offer Your Highness my congratulations on this brilliant

*Peak in Western Ghats, in yedanalknad Jalark in Coorg

victory, which I trust may be considered as a happy omen and forerunner of future successes. The particulars of this event will be made known to Your Highness, by Colonel Palmer.

No. 232—The Governor General communicates the same victory to Daulatrao Sindia.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—DOWLUT ROW SINDIA.

Written, 24th March 1799.

A consideration for the friendly connexion and attachment subsisting between the Company and you, renders it proper that I should communicate to you all occurrences of importance, and particularly those which concern the war in which the Company and their allies are engaged with Tippoo Sultaun. I am happy to inform you (etc. the same as in the letter to the Paishwa, down to the words "from which his troops marched to Suddasere").

Interested as you must be for the success of the Company and their allies in the present contest, the communication of this brilliant victory, which I trust, will prove a good omen and a forerunner of further successes, will afford you great satisfaction and therefore I have done myself the pleasure to communicate it.

No. 233—The Resident reports intrigues of the Peshwa and Sindia against the British power and adds, that the Peshwa's professions have been totally at variance with his actions and can be considered only as mockery and insult.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 8th April 1799.

Rowbah the Guicwar Vakeel at this Court has informed Moonshy Fikir-ul-Dien with whom he has long been on terms of great friendship

and confidence, that having enquired of Jadhoo Basckar the state of affairs at Sindia's Durbar, Basckar communicated to him a plan concerted by the Paishwa and Sindia to attack the Nizam and eventually to form an alliance with Tippoo Sultaun

Jahdoo Basckar relates, that in pursuance of this plan a formal requisition under the signature of Bajy Row, Emrut Row and Chimna Appa was made to Sindia to return to his cantonments. That the more immediate purpose of Sindia's resuming this position is to secure the person of Nana Furnawees, and when this object shall be effected, the Paishwa and Sindia are to unite their forces and invade the Nabob's dominions. It is further provided, that if the British Government shall engage in the defence of His Highness in opposition to the meditated attack as is expected, a Mahratta force shall be sent to the assistance of Tippoo

I have no hesitation in giving credit to this information, as far as it depends upon the characters and views of the principals said to be engaged in the plan. But I cannot obtain any satisfactory account of the motives which should induce Jahdoo Basckar to disclose so important a secret to the friend of my Moonshy. Fukr-ul-Dien ascribes it to gratitude and attachment in the latter for services formerly rendered to him by Rowbah

Jahdoo Basckar is an old dependant of Baboo Row Angria and possesses the entire confidence of both that chieftain and Sindia

If on the one hand it may be doubted that this man would be influenced by the motive assigned to so dangerous a confidence, it is on the other difficult to ascribe any reason for Rowbah's fabricating such a communication; and Basckar's relation is corroborated by Sheshaudry Pundit who has received similar information from another quarter, as he has told Meer Fukr-ul-Dien, whom I sent to him purposely to enquire. This concurring testimony receives additional weight from the circumstances of Tippoo's Vakeels having halted until this time, after the two successive marches which I informed your Lordship they had made, and which induced me to suppose that they would prosecute their journey without further delay, until Rowbah's information excited my suspicion of their being still detained

This shameless violation of the most solemn promises respecting the departure of the Mysore Vakeels, certain information given to me of the Paishwa having within these few days received a letter from Surungputtum and of an intercourse being still maintained between his agent Ragoo Pundit, and the Vakeels, impressing me with a conviction of his perfidious intentions towards his allies, I conceived it my indispensable duty to remonstrate to him on these faithless proceedings,

and to declare that I could no longer confide in his professions and designs, and must in consequence of your Lordship's instructions direct the return of the Bombay detachment.

I have received a copy of your Lordship's letter of the 22nd ultimo to Lieut.-Colonel Little. I sincerely wish that the ships appointed to receive his detachment may have found him below the Ghauts. But I am yet without intelligence of his situation and I fear that he must be in want of both money and provisions. In these circumstances I am not without suspicion of treachery from this Durbar in my correspondence with him.

The cases in which your Lordship has enjoined the re-embarkation of the Bombay detachment certainly exist. But I doubt whether Lieut.-Colonel Little will think himself competent to determine upon them, as they have no dependence on his agency. The draft and carriage cattle were not to be provided by this Government, but by me on the Company's account, and they were dispatched so long ago as the 19th ultimo. The Durbar, however, certainly obstructed their proceeding as I informed your Lordship in my address of the 15th ultimo. The payment of subsidy by this State is to be made to me. The abstracts of the actual disbursements of the detachment are drawn by the Paymaster either on Bombay or this Residency, and must be defrayed whether a fund is secured to answer the subsidy or not. Colonel Little can have had no communication with Pursaram Bhow, but I have informed him of that Chief's having declined the charge of the contingent, as well as of the general inability of this Government to engage in any effectual co-operation with the troops of the allies.

I just now learn from the agent of the Aumil of Rutnaghery that Colonel Little had fixed on the 6th to commence his march through the Ghauts. If by this movement the detachment should miss the opportunity of returning by sea, I shall direct Colonel Little to return to Bombay by the most direct practicable route.

I am firmly persuaded, My Lord, that the services of the detachment would be totally lost in the present war by its remaining in the Paishwa's territories; and that its detention or recall will make no difference in his conduct towards his allies. His professions in answer to your Lordship's representations on his intercourse with Tippoo, have been totally at variance with his actions and can be considered only as mockery and insult. Nor will he desist from his intrigues until the events of the war leave him exposed to your Lordship's resentment.

I forward to Mr. Edmonstone for your Lordship's information, copies of notes which have passed between Moonshies Fukir-ul-Dien and Gopal Row, in consequence of my directing the former to notify the intended recall of the detachment and the reasons for it. Your Lordship will

observe in Gopal Row's answers, that although the continuance of the detachment is repeatedly desired, the flagrant deceit of detaining the vakeels so long attempted to be palliated, nor the existing intercourse with them, and their master denied. Neither have I yet received any formal or satisfactory security or obligation for the payment of the subsidy, though the Minister has informed me that Rowbah has engaged it and the latter acknowledges that he has.

The appointment of a force to serve as the Paishwa's contingent in the war against Tippoo and of an officer to conduct it, is in the same state of uncertainty, as when the standard of the Empire was erected near the city in the beginning of December last.

Although both the Paishwa and Sindia may be induced by their pecuniary necessities to temporise with Tippoo I am of opinion that the Sultaun will experience only disappointment and the loss of his money in any negotiation or engagement into which he may enter with them, unless it can be supposed that he will supply them with a sum sufficient to indemnify them for the retribution which the allies would exact from them. Nor do I think it likely that they will unite in the execution of any part of the plan related in the beginning of this letter except the seizure of Nana Furnavees. It is, however, necessary to watch the transactions of both Durbars with particular attention, and I trust that I shall not be unapprized of any measures which can materially affect the interests of the Company or its allies.

Last night Nana Furnavees sent for Moonshy Fukir-ul-Dien. He expressed great uneasiness at the recall of the Bombay detachment, but acknowledged that the measure was justified by the conduct of the Paishwa. He had endeavoured, he said, to throw a veil over the defects of his master, but they were too glaring to be concealed. He wishes the detachment to be continued that the appearances of harmony and alliance might be preserved. And he declared that he had no share in the proceedings which had justly excited your Lordship's displeasure. He was uninformed of any reasons for the detention of Tippoo's Vakeels after they left Poona, except such as they assigned themselves, which were the want of carriage and dangers of the road.

Nana said that he was fully informed of the designs meditated by the Paishwa and Sindia against the Nazim and himself, and to mark the character of Sindia, said that he had lately received proposals from him for deposing the Paishwa.

He then told Meer Fukir-ul-Dien that he must hurry himself away, as he momentarily expected a visit from the Paishwa and Emrut Row, for the purpose of reconciling him with the latter by the Paishwa's particular request. But he did not trust to this specious kindness and rather considered it as an artifice to betray him more effectually.

Fukir-ul-Dien had only to reply to the Minister's desire of retaining the detachment, which he told him could not be complied with, as he had not even attempted to give any assurances of its being employed in conjunction with the forces of this State against the common enemy, and had acknowledged that neither his own power nor the Paishwa's sincerity were to be depended upon.

No. 234—The Resident reports to the Governor General the double-dealing of the Peshwa, and his move in co-operation with Sindia to squeeze Nana Fadnis of his wealth or to put him to flight.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 12th April 1799.

My Lord,

Since my last address Doulut Rao Sindia has sent for Baloo Tautia from his confinement in order to reinstate him in the ministry. The immediate consequence of this man's return to power, it is supposed, will be the flight or captivity of Nana Furnawees and Sindia expects from it a reconciliation with his family, and the return of Lacawa Dada and his adherents to their allegiance. Whatever projects Sindia may have formed either separately or in concert with the Paishwa, it is probable that the execution of them will be suspended until Tautia enters upon his administration.

Yesterday a detachment of seven battalions commanded by M. Du-Prat, a Frenchman, marched from Sindia's cantonments. This detachment was formed professedly to proceed against the insurgents in Malwa on the pressing instances of M. Perron. But it has taken a direction which indicates its destination to be either against the army of the Bhyes or the Nazim's frontier. This change of object may have been induced by the expectation of Tautia's composing the insurrection in Hindostan, while that in the Deccan assumes a more serious appearance from a meeting having lately taken place between the Bhyes and Pursaram Bhow.

I am doubtful whether the accomplishment of the principal objects which Sindia has in view in recalling Tautia to the direction of his affairs, would accelerate his return to Hindostan. This minister will not contribute in the smallest degree from his funds to remove the pecuniary difficulties of the Government, having been already defrauded and

plundered of near a crore of rupees Sindia's pressing necessities must be relieved by either the wealth of Nana Furnaweas, the pillage of Poona and the sequestration of the Paishwa's revenues, or the invasion of the Nazim's dominions.

The daily paper from Sindia's Durbar is just now come in and to my astonishment I read in it, that a Vakeel from Tippoo is arrived within two coss of Sindia's cantonments and has desired to know when he may enter them. Combining the circumstances of the project said to be entertained by the Paishwa and Sindia, the . . . route of Du-Prat's detachment and the secrecy with which the Sultaun's emissary has advanced, I am strongly inclined to suspect that this Prince has found means to engage the Paishwa and Sindia to commence hostilities against the Nazim as a measure likely to divert the danger which threatens himself from the attack of the united forces of the allies. I have despatched a note to Gunput Roy directing him to expostulate with Dowlut Row on this proceeding, so incompatible with every relation in which he stands to the British Government, and to require his explicit disavowal of all hostile intention towards the Company or its allies. I hope to receive his answer in time for this despatch.

Gopal Row sent his brother to me this morning, chiefly for the purpose of prevailing on me to suspend the return of the Bombay detachment. To induce my consent to this measure he assured me that a fund was now provided for the subsidy and that the son of Pursaram Bhow would conduct the Paishwa's contingent against the enemy. But upon my demanding to be satisfied on these points so that I might be justified in dispensing with the execution of your Lordship's commands, I could only obtain a promise that an engagement from the Guicawar Vakeel for the periodical discharge of the subsidy should be delivered to me, in the course of two or three days, and I found that there was no better ground for the assurance respecting the contingent, than an application from the Paishwa to Pursaram Bhow which has not yet been answered.

I told the Moonshy that I should be totally inexcusable if I departed from your Lordship's instructions on no better security than promises, of which my experience had almost invariably proved the fallacy, and, that the services which the detachment might perform in other situations, were too essential to be hazarded on the slender prospect of co-operation from this State. Nor could I entertain the smallest expectation of Pursaram Bhow detaching his son with a considerable part of his force, when he had declined the service himself. Besides these considerations against my complying with the request which he had made, I asked him what reliance I could place on the Paishwa's sincerity, when to this moment Tippoo's Vakeels (as I was yesterday informed) had not advanced ten coss on their return to Surungputtun.

The Moonshy offered only general assertions in extenuation of the evasive and insincere conduct of this Court hitherto, and reiterated assurances of giving no cause of future complaint. He endeavoured to excuse the delay of the Mysore Vakeels by making it their own act, contrary to the Paishwa's injunction, who had now, he, said, sent people to compel them to prosecute their journey.

He reported to me by the Paishwa's directions the contents of letters received by the latter and the Minister from Tippoo, in reply to their rejection of his proposals by his Vakeels. These were in substance no more than an attempt to prove that he had not refused your Lordship's proposal to treat of an accommodation by disingenuously stating the invitation which he had given to Major Doveton after the advance of our army, without any mention of his having before declined your Lordship's offer to depute that gentleman to him. This report appears to me to be defective either in fidelity or candor, Tippoo can hardly suppose the Paishwa to be ignorant of his answers to your Lordship's demands.

These communications by Moonshy Shunkur Row have not in the smallest degree changed my opinion in regard to the Paishwa's ability or disposition to co-operate in the war. I am persuaded that his real objects in them are to avoid the discredit which he will incur by the recall of the detachment and to temporize with a view to his own advantage until events shall determine his conduct.

Under these apprehensions and the very suspicious appearances stated in this and my last address, I should hesitate to detain the detachment, though it were not in the circumstances under which your Lordship has positively enjoined its return. Mr. Duncan's advice of the intended despatch of The Sceptre and Carysfort for the re-embarkation of the detachment will have reached Lieutenant Colonel Little before he can have commenced his ascent of the Ghauts. I have received a letter from the Colonel in answer to those which I had written to him, and have the satisfaction to find that he is not in immediate want of money and is tolerably supplied with provisions by the people of the country.

I have just now received Gunput Roy's report of Sindia's answer to my representation on his reception of Tippoo's Vakeel, which appearing to me by no means satisfactory, I have directed Gunput Roy to repeat my objections to any intercourse with the Suldaun and to enforce them by contrasting the conduct of the Nazim on a similar occasion with that of Sindia. I transmit to Mr. Edmonstone for your Lordship's information the notes which have passed on this subject between Fukir-ul-Dien and Gunput Roy.

I cannot suppose that Sindia has adopted a proceeding so offensive to the British Government without proposing to himself some advantage

in opposition to its interests and security. The earliest measures seem necessary to counteract his designs against both the Company and the Nizam

I have repeatedly remonstrated to the Paishwa on his unbecoming neglect to answer your Lordship's letters, which he attempts to excuse by his inability to write satisfactorily on the subject of his defensive engagements. But now that his measures are adjusted (alluding to his communications by Shunkur Row) he will dispatch his answers without delay. He has not, however, yet taken any notice of your Lordship's letter on the victory obtained by General Stuart delivered to him four days ago *

M Duprat's detachment is ordered to halt at Gardown on the Beemrah on the direct road to Purraundah, and within 15 coss of the Nabob's frontier

Baboo Row Angria is returned to cantonments, and his mission to the Bhyes is suspended in consequence of the recall of Baloo Tautia.

No. 235—Palmer acknowledges receipt of the G. G.'s letter and reports that he is taking action on it.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 15th April 1799.

My Lord,

I had yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 3rd instant, and in obedience to your commands, I have demanded an audience of the Paishwa for the purpose directed. In answer to my application, Gopal Rao advises me that it would be proper I should previously have an interview with the Minister. But no time is fixed for it. If any delay is likely to ensue, I shall present a memorial conformable to your Lordship's instructions.

Although the Paishwa and the Minister have been so urgent for the detention of the Bombay detachment, no further security has been offered to me for its subsistence or for furnishing the contingent of this State to the war, than the assurances given through Moonshy Shunkur Rao as stated in my last address.

*The student's attention is invited to a strong remonstrance addressed by the G. G. to the Peshwa through the Resident on April 3, 1799, printed by Martin, p. 507 Vol I

I received a letter last night from Lieutenant-Colonel Little, from which I have the satisfaction to learn that advice from the Government of Bombay as well as from me of the intended re-embarkation of his detachment, had reached him on the 10th and in time to prevent his ascending the Ghauts.

No transaction of moment has taken place between the two Durbars since Sindia detached an escort to convey Baloo Tautia to camp. The resolutions of both seem to be suspended until the arrival of that Minister.

Sindia defers an answer to my last remonstrance on his reception of a Vakeel from Tippoo on pretext of Bhow Bukshy's absence, who is at present occupied in some affairs in the city. The Vakeel has not yet entered Sindia's cantonments.

I beg your Lordship to accept of my sincere congratulations on the success of General Harris over the army of Tippoo Sultaun on the 27th ultimo and I have the honour to be.*

No. 236—The G. G. communicates a brilliant victory of the allied forces against Tipu Sultan at Malavelly.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE PAISHWAH.

Written 3rd April 1799.

Prior to this I had the honour to acquaint Your Highness with the victory obtained by the British troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Stuart on the Coorga frontier over those of Tippoo Sultaun. It is with increased satisfaction that I have now the honour to communicate to Your Highness the accounts I have just received of the further success of the allied armies, in repulsing the whole of the enemy's force in an engagement which took place on the 27th ultimo, within 15 or 16 coss of Seringapatam, on the arrival of the army at their intended place of encampment; on that day, a body of the enemy's troops appeared in sight and opened a distant cannonade upon the line. At the same time a large body of horse being seen to approach the right wing of the British army a part of His Highness the Nizam's Contingent with the troops under the command of my brother Colonel Wellesley, were ordered out to meet the enemy, the whole of whose force was now drawn out to receive them; and after an engagement of about three hours during

*The G. G.'s reply of 7th April is printed by Martin, Vol. I, p. 517.

which a large portion of the British army was not engaged in the action, the enemy were completely defeated, driven from all their posts and compelled to seek their safety in flight.

The loss of the enemy appears to have been very great; that on the part of the allies very inconsiderable

I sincerely congratulate Your Highness on this important victory, which I consider as the manifestation of the Divine Blessing, favouring the justice of our cause, and which thro' the aid of Providence, and the skill, courage, and zeal of our troops, will, I trust, be followed by still further successes and by the termination of the war, to the honour and security of the allies

Further particulars relative to this signal victory will be communicated to Your Highness by Colonel Palmer.

No. 237—The Resident reports his interview with Nana Fadnis on the subject of the failure of the Peshwa to keep his engagements. The Resident adds that "the true motive of the Peshwa's conduct is an incurable distrust of every power and person that can exercise any control or influence over him and which never yields but to the apprehension or the suffering of some intolerable evil".

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 19th April 1799.

My Lord,

I awaited upon Nana Furnawees yesterday evening by his appointment for the purpose enjoined in your Lordship's instructions of the 3rd instant, I found him attended by Naroo Punt Chuckerdeo, Moonshy Gopal Rao and his brother.

In a conference which lasted two hours I entered into a review of the whole series of transactions which have passed between the two Governments from your Lordship's accession to the present time, and in which I was suffered to proceed without the smallest interruption, not only in stating facts, but in explaining the motives and objects of your Lordship's measures, as they affected this State, either separately or conjointly with the allies, and in remarks on the reception and return

which your Lordship's plans, proposals and representations had met with from the Paishwa.

It would occupy your Lordship's time unnecessarily to detail the facts which I alleged and the arguments and conclusions which I deduced from them, since it would be only a repetition of the subjects and sentiments which are comprized in your Lordship's commands and communications to me, and of the information, opinions, and reflections, applicable to the transactions in question contained in my public correspondence.

When I had concluded, Nana Furnawees proceeded to answer the various points which I had thus produced for discussion, in the order in which I had stated them. But on no one article did he assign better reasons than had been already urged to excuse or palliate neglect, failure and deception. He declared that the Paishwa was fully sensible of the benefits which your Lordship intended to confer on him by your offer of a large subsidiary force; that he had never entertained the least suspicion of any other views in the proposals which accompanied the offer, than those which were avowed, and that his declining to accept them was chiefly induced by his inability to support the charge of the subsidy, and by his having obtained some relief from the apprehension which had compelled him to apply for protection.

Nana Furnawees assigned no other reason for the Paishwa's having rejected your Lordship's mediation of his disputed claims on the Nizam, than that the two Courts were so closely connected in alliance and friendship as to ensure an amicable termination of any differences which remain to be adjusted between them.

In reply to my statement of the causes which had determined your Lordship to recall the Bombay detachment, Nana observed that the detention of Tippoo's Vakeels (as he had frequently assured me) had been attended by no act injurious to the triple alliance, nor incompatible with the Paishwa's engagements in it. They had been told from the first that their master had, without provocation, engaged in designs against the Company and must give your Lordship satisfaction. The circumstance of delaying their departure so long after an answer was given them was merely in compliance with their own wishes and conformably to the usage of this Court on similar occasions. The delay in providing for the subsidy proceeded from the embarrassments of the State; and to the same cause must be attributed the frequent failure of the promises given to furnish the contingent. If the Paishwa had deceived me on this head, it was because he had been deceived himself. To my complaint of the general inattention, neglect and slight shown by the Durbar to your Lordship's communications and representations and manifested in every transaction which I have with it, the Minister answered that he was sorry there should be cause for such a complaint, and he would prevent it in future. Measures

were now taken, he said, to satisfy me on all these points. Seh-zawuls had been sent to compel Tippoo's Vakeels to retire from the Paishwa's dominions. The Guicwar Vaheel had engaged for the regular discharge of the subsidy, and orders had been sent to Pursaram Bhow to detach his son with 10 or 12,000 horses to Tippoo's frontier. He therefore earnestly entreated me to suspend the return of the detachment for a few days until I could be perfectly assured that these arrangements had taken effect, adding that the recall of the troops would have the appearance of misunderstanding and distrust between the Paishwa and his allies,

The Minister having finished his replies, I entered into remarks upon them separately. I observed that the inability to discharge the subsidy assigned by the Paishwa as one of the reasons for his declining the aid which your Lordship had consented to afford him, should have equally operated against his soliciting it; and that events had shown him to have been entirely mistaken in the other reason assigned of his being relieved from the oppressive interference of Sindia. Admitting the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad to be on the footing of harmony and conciliation, which the Minister represents them to be, it is no reasonable objection to the mediation of an impartial friend in adjusting differences which are acknowledged still to exist.

With respect to the motives for detaining the Mysore Vakeels after the answer said to have been given to them, I observed that these did not satisfactorily account for the Paishwa's persisting to give uneasiness and dissatisfaction to his allies in disregard of repeated expostulations and remonstrances.

The neglect of providing a fund for the subsidy did not appear to be a matter of necessity, great as the difficulties of the Government unquestionably are, since the Guicwar Vakeel engaged to disburse it on the first application, conditionally of the Paishwa's permission for his return to Baroda, which he has long solicited but which is not yet complied with.

The prospect of the Paishwa's furnishing his contingent to the common cause, I said was as distant as ever. The Minister must know that Pursaram Bhow's situation does not admit of his detaching his son with such a force as can be of any effectual service, that he requires money, artillery and military stores of all kinds, and from whence were those articles to be supplied?

I told the Minister that it was not in my power to suspend the return of the detachment. Your Lordship's injunctions were positive and certainly they had not been precipitate. The Minister and Gopal Row would recollect how often I had warned them that your Lordship would be compelled to this measure, if they suffered the detachment to remain inactive below the Ghauts. Yet Gopal Row had obstructed the dispatch of the cattle necessary to its moving for 15 days, merely to force me to relinquish those which I had hired, and to enter into another contract for

his own advantage; that I was certain your Lordship regretted the necessity of recalling the troops, but whatever appearances or consequences it might have, they will be solely imputable to the conduct of this Court in neglecting and obstructing the means of employing the detachment for the purposes of its destination.

Gopal Rhow endeavoured to exonerate (himself) from my charge of having obstructed the dispatch of the cattle by saying that he had informed the Minister of the circumstance. Nana without assent or denial answered significantly:—"I see that I must take the blame of whatever is wrong." He here repeated his request for the detention of the detachment, saying that I surely had a discretion in this case. I assured him that I had not, but if I had, no circumstances existed to justify me in the exercise of it, and besides these considerations the detachment was now out of my reach, Colonel Little having advised me that he should move towards the port on the 13th. Nana then requested that I would state to your Lordship the Paishwa's anxious wish that this detachment should be remanded to his services, or replaced by another of equal force. I promised to mention this request to your Lordship, but told the Minister he must not expect it would be complied with unless substantial proofs were given of the Paishwa's ability and sincere disposition to enter effectively into the war against the common enemy.

I then informed the Minister of the consideration with which your Lordship is impressed for the unfortunate situation of the Paishwa's Government and country, assuring him that you never meant to reproach him for any failure in his engagements arising from his misfortunes; requiring only such exertions as were actually in his power, and candid and explicit avowal in all cases of inability; and that to afford him a sincere proof of your sentiments and disinterested attachment to him as a branch of the triple alliance, you would secure to him an equal share with the other allies of any cessions which may be obtained from Tippoo, although he should be obliged by the distractions of the empire to remain neutral during the war. I thought, however, it might be prudent to qualify this declaration with the conditions of the Paishwa's abstaining from all intercourse with the enemy, and of his affording to his allies assistance of every kind to the extent of his power.

The declaration of this generous procedure in your Lordship had a visible effect on all present. Nana Furnaweas expressed his sense of it in very forcible terms, and appealed to his conduct in the war when he possessed real power for the sincerity of his intentions to fulfil the engagements of this State to the allies, and to maintain and improve its relations of friendship and harmony with the Company. Narroo Punt, who had not hitherto opened his lips, seems to have attended only as a restraint on the Minister, now joined in extolling your Lordship's disinterested conduct and in protestations, in the name of the Paishwa, of

inviolable regard to all his obligations, and attention to every wish and recommendation of your Lordship.

The Minister having confined his discourse in this conference chiefly to general assurances of the Paishwa's good will and to those motives for his conduct which have been unsatisfactorily urged in former discussions, without attempting to answer my refutation of the latter or to enter into any particular explanation of the real state of affairs, I conclude that he was restrained by injunction from the Paishwa and by the presence of Narroo Punt and Gopal Rhow from delivering his own sentiments and opinions on the points agitated, and hence it may be inferred that there is little more sincerity in the Paishwa's profession regarding the future than truth in his assertions respecting the past. The true motive of his conduct in his transactions with the Company seems to be an incurable distrust of every power and person that can exercise any control or influence over him, and which never yields but to the apprehension or the suffering of some intolerable evil.

Your Lordship will perceive by the enclosed translate of a note from Gunput Rao that Doulat Rao Sindia has dismissed Tippoo's Vakeel without an audience. I have in consequence assured him that this instance of his regard to the Company's Government and interests will be highly satisfactory to your Lordship.

No event deserving your Lordship's notice has taken place here since my last address.

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's commands of the 7th instant, to which I shall pay due attention if the case should happen to which they apply, and I am informed that the Minister still wishes to engage Bajy Rao and his brothers in the scheme. The execution of it is become urgent from the approach of Balloo Tautia, who is expected in Sindia's cantonments tomorrow.

No. 238—The Resident communicates to the Governor-General several items of news, and advises stronger measures against the Peshwa than mere remonstrances and expostulations.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 22nd April 1799.

My Lord,

Gunput Roy has been with me by the direction of Dowlut Row Sindia to express the concern of that chief at being compelled by the necessity

of his affairs to remain in this neighbourhood, notwithstanding your Lordship's representations of the injury which it causes to the interests of the Company and its allies. This apology was accompanied with professions from Sindia of strong attachment to the British Government and nation, and assurances of a sincere desire to give your Lordship every proof of it, in his power. Gunput Roy was further directed to inform me that Sindia has been compelled to recall Balloo Tantia to the Ministry, as the only means left of composing the distractions in his family and government, and of enabling him to comply with your Lordship's desire that he should return to Hindostan, the Peshwa and Nana having totally failed in their engagements to that effect.

Sindia solemnly denies, as Gunput Roy said, having used the smallest interference to obstruct the Peshwa in furnishing his contingent to the war. On the contrary he had encouraged and recommended it, and he authorized Gunput Roy to make a tender of a subsidiary force of 10,000 cavalry to act wherever your Lordship should require, against Tippoo Sultaun.

Gunput Roy at the same time was charged with a message from Baboo Row Angria to assure me of his respect for the Company's Government and of his being constantly intent on the means of connecting its interests with those of Sindia.

Perhaps these courteous messages are to be attributed to the success which has attended the British arms at the outset of the conflict with Tippoo Sultaun. They do not correspond with appearances. I received them however, with acknowledgment and told Gunput Roy that Sindia's professions and offer of aid would be satisfactory to your Lordship, although I was confident that the latter would not be wanted.

I do not think that any reliance should be placed on these professions of Sindia and his uncle. He is disposed to take either part in the war as his interest may dictate. At present it inclines to the side of the allies. He and the Peshwa (as Sheshaudry Pundit informs me) still entertain the project of attacking the Nazim in his present defenceless state and the disposition of sending a detachment is favourable to such a design. His refusing to admit Tippoo's Vakeel to his presence is probably collusive, as that emissary is still at Hurrupser, and one of my Hirkarrahs who returned yesterday from the camp of the Vakeels deputed to the Paishwa, informs that a confidential person from them set out for Sindia's cantonments at the same time with him. He left those Vakeels at Buraiser, only ten coss distant from Poona, notwithstanding that a Seziwul (?) has been sent to force them to retire, as Nana asserted at my last interview with him.

The Peshwa's conduct throughout the whole transaction of the embassy from Mysore makes it impossible to draw any other conclusions than

that he still maintains an intercourse with the enemy, notwithstanding his solemn protestations to the contrary, equally regardless of his public faith, of his personal reputation and the displeasure of his allies

Your Lordship will perceive in this aggravated breach of promise of the Peshwa, after the recent instance which he has experienced of your generous regard to his unfortunate situation, that his mind is as unsusceptible of the emotions of gratitude, as of truth and justice. I have again remonstrated on this subject, but with little expectation of any other effect than a renewal of deceitful promises and assurances.

Sheshaudry Pundit informs me that Nana Furnawees has it in contemplation to propose himself to the Paishwa for the conduct of the contingent of this State, and to induce the Paishwa's consent, Nana will defray the expense of it from his own funds. This scheme has probably suggested itself to Nana as the most eligible one for extricating himself from the dangers by which he is surrounded. His avowed object in it is to prevent the disgrace of a failure in engagements which were formed under his auspices. But in either of these views there would be no doubt of his assembling a respectable force and zealously directing it, in the first instance, against the common enemy. I have, however, no conception of the Paishwa's trusting him in such a situation, or if he should consent, that Sindia could be brought to acquiesce in it.

Sheshaudry Pundit informed me that he was going to attend Sindia, who had summoned him for the purpose of requiring the aid of the Nazim's troops on the frontier to reduce the party of the Bhyes, and desired my advice on the answer which he should give. I recommended it to him to temporize, observing that a compliance with the requisition without inducing Sindia to relinquish his designs against the Nazim, would enable him to carry them the sooner or more effectually into execution.

A person on whose veracity I can entirely rely, just now informs me that he has been told by Bapoo Row, the Dewan of Emrut Row, that the Paishwa has engaged to Tippoo to remain neutral during the war for the consideration of thirteen lacs of rupees. The negotiation was conducted by Balloo Koonjer, a man whom the Paishwa within these two years has raised from a menial employment in his household to be the confidential agent of his most secret intrigues and to places of great trust and emolument. Sindia is acquainted with this transaction, but Nana is ignorant of it. Hence all the orders of the latter for the departure of the Mysore Vakeels are secretly countermanded by the Paishwa through Balloo Koonjer. This information agrees but too well with the Paishwa's proceedings, and I am apprehensive that your Lordship will find it necessary to resort to stronger measures to avert the consequences of the faithless conduct which he pursues, than remonstrances and expostulations so repeatedly urged in vain.

Balloo Tautia's arrival in Sindia's cantonments has been retarded by indisposition, but I understood he is expected tomorrow.

No. 239—The Resident continues to reproach both the Peshwa and Sindia for their faithless breach of promise of taking part in the war against Tipu.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 26th April 1799.

My Lord,

The return of Ballo Tautia to the administration of Sindia's Government seems to have awakened the Paishwa to a sense of his dangerous situation and to have convinced him of the necessity of a firm union between him, his brothers and Nana Furnavees, to avert it. Apparently for this purpose the Minister has attended the brothers in consultation several days past consecutively, and the most solemn protestations have been reciprocally and repeatedly made of inviolable fidelity and cordial co-operation for the interests of the State, the maintenance of Bajy Row's authority and the personal security of the members of the coalition.

By what means it is proposed to attain the objects of this conciliation I have not heard. But I understand that retreat is still the favourite scheme of Nana, though he has not yet ventured to recommend it to the Peshwa. This measure appears to be the most eligible that can be adopted, as no effectual support can reach the Paishwa in his present situation. But if he could extricate himself from the immediate power of Sindia and would remain faithful to his new engagement, the influence of his name, the general attachment to Nana and the universal dread of Sindia, would probably induce many of the feudatory chieftains to repair to his standard and afford him leisure to concert in safety further means of recovering his authority and of restoring tranquillity to the state.

It is, however, probable that no sudden resolution will be taken, as Sindia seems to have suspended his determination respecting the Peshwa's Government until the result of Balloo Tautia's influence in appeasing the commotions in his own shall be known. Letters from that Minister proposing reconciliation have been dispatched to the Bhyes and to Lucawa Dada.

Nana Furnavees has offered to conduct the contingent of the state in person against Tippoo, to which the Peshwa has answered that he

will consider of it But there is not I think, the least probability of his giving his assent.

Neither of the Mysore Vakeels have moved from the positions in which I informed your Lordship they were in my last address. I continue to reproach both the Paishwa and Sindia, with their faithless promises on this subject, but rather with a view to deprive them of an excuse for their conduct in the plea of my regarding it with indifference, than with any expectation of their actually dismissing those emissaries so long as they have the smallest prospect of advantage from detaining them.

Reports are industriously circulated by the Vakeels to the disadvantage of the British arms and calculated to encourage the Peshwa and Sindia to embrace the cause of Tippoo These fabrications appear in the Durbar news-papers and will be detailed to Your Lordship by Mr Edmonstone

When I had written thus far I received a message from Nana Furnavees desiring to see Meer Fukir-ul-Deen, who waited upon him immediately. On his return he reported to me, that the Minister first communicated to him the reconciliation which had taken place between him and Emrut Row by the interposition of the Paishwa, and their engagement to unite their counsels and authority for the security and prosperity of the latter But the Paishwa with his habitual suspicion and secret design had clogged their union with the agency of Balloo Koonjer The principal subject on which the Minister desired to confer with Meer Fukir-ul-Deen, was his proposal to conduct the Paishwa's contingent He fairly avowed that his chief motive in this proposal was to extricate himself from the dangers and perplexities of his station in the present distracted state of the Empire But he observed that he should also have the means of fulfilling the engagements of the state, of contributing to its welfare, and of obtaining your Lordship's good opinion and protection. He seemed to think it not unlikely that the Paishwa would accept his offer, but was apprehensive of Doulut Row Sindia's opposing it, and asked if I would, in that case, remonstrate with Sindia, and endeavour to overcome his opposition *Fukir-ul-Deen referred this question to me,* and I have answered it in the affirmative.

Nana Furnavees added that in the event of his leading a considerable force against the enemy, he was in hopes that your Lordship would replace the Bombay detachment if he should require it, that in this expectation he had provided for the subsidy by an engagement from the Guicwar Vakeel, which he would deposit with me, to be applied to the subsistence of the troops if they should be granted, or otherwise to be restored As I did not think it prudent to damp his zeal by any suggestion of doubt on this subject I have informed him that I would advise your Lordship of his wishes and intentions respecting it.

The Minister having expressed his concern at the departure of Lieutenant Colonel Little's detachment, Fukir-ul-Deen repeated the

proceedings of this Court which had necessarily induced this measure, adding the information which I had received of the Paishwa having actually entered into an engagement with Tippoo, in violation of his faith to the allies. This last charge Nana said, he could not positively deny, it might be true. He could only aver his entire ignorance of it. If any agreement whatever had been concluded between the Paishwa and Tippoo, it was not negotiated by Ragoo Pundit, the public agent of the former; it must have been conducted by a secret emissary. It would, however, have one consequence, the Minister observed, if he was allowed to take charge of the Paishwa's contingent.

Meer Fukir-ul-Deen enquired of Nana, what he expected would be the result of Balloo Tautia's return to the administration of Sindia's affairs, with respect to the Paishwa and himself. The Minister said, that he had no certain intelligence of Tautia's designs, but he had been advised to be upon his guard, as it was intended to make him the first victim to Tautia's power and revenge; and the Paishwa the next. Nana also informed Fukir-ul-Deen that he had with a view of preparing Sindia for the proposal of his conducting the contingent, called upon him for the aid of 2,000 horse and two battalions of Sepoys to enable the Paishwa to fulfil his defensive engagements, and that Sindia had excused himself from complying with this requisition by the embarrassments of his government.

I do not apprehend that His Highness the Nazim is in any imminent danger from the hostile designs reported to be formed against him by the Paishwa and Sindia. There is little appearance of the latter being prepared to undertake any considerable military expedition before the rainy season will commence. Mr. Duprat's position at Gardowne seems to be merely precautionary against a junction of the Nizam's forces with those of the Bhyes.

No. 240—The Resident reports to the Governor General Nana's request to lead the Peshwa's contingent personally against Tipu.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 29th April 1799.

My Lord,

No material transaction has come to my knowledge since I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 26th instant. Doulut Row Sindia in answer to my representation on the continuance of Tippoo

Sultaun's Vakeel at Hurupser, directed Gunput Roy to assure me that it was without his connivance and that he had entered into no intercourse with him whatever. Sindia immediately dispatched messengers to the Vakeel to insist upon his instant departure attended by a Harcarrah of nine to witness the delivery of the message. These men returned yesterday and report that the Vakeel said, he had no desire to remain, but some of his people and cattle were sick. Of the truth of this assertion, he desired the Harkarahs to satisfy themselves. When this impediment should be removed he would set out. What inducement had he, he asked, to delay his journey?

The Mysore Vakeels deputed to the Peshwa were yesterday advanced about 25 coss beyond Poona, a distance rather inconvenient for communication with the Durbar, whence I infer that they are now actually dismissed, though no professions or appearances at either Durbar are security against collusion and imposition.

Nana Furnawees sent for my Moonshy again the 27th to enquire my opinion of his proposal to conduct in person the Peshwa's contingent, and whether I would support it if an opinion should be afforded for my interference with both the Peshwa and Sindia, repeating the observation which he had made at the last interview, that in the present state of affairs he could devise no measure which would so effectually answer at once both your Lordship's views and his own. Fukir-ul-Dien answered that I could have no hesitation or scruple to promote a plan, of which the object is to enable the Peshwa to fulfil his defensive engagements in the war commenced against the common enemy, especially when it was proposed to give it all the energy and effect which might be expected from the execution of it being undertaken by the Minister in person.

Nana Furnavees on this assurance said, that he was using means to obtain the Paishwa's acceptance of his offer and to have it imparted to me in a public form, that I might recommend and support it with the Peshwa and remonstrate against any obstruction to it from Sindia.

Fukir-ul-Deen reminded the Minister of the necessity of expedition if this State really wished to take an active part in the war. The Minister said, he was fully sensible that the opportunity was passing away and would omit nothing in his power to prevent its being totally lost. I cannot, however, believe that either the Paishwa or Sindia will permit Nana to occupy a situation of power and independence. Sindia will not, perhaps, openly oppose the Minister's scheme, but will encourage Bajy Row to reject it if the latter shows any disposition to favour it.

Nana told Fukir-ul-Dien that he had received some overtures of reconciliation from Balloo Tautia through Raiyjee Patel, who is himself reconciled to Tautia only within these three or four days, and at the same time Sindia himself advises him that his Ministers have evil intentions towards him, which they deliberate upon among themselves without

his being able to prevent it. But he gives Nana notice of it that he may not reproach him, if any misfortune should happen, with having concealed the danger from him. Nana regards both these communications as insidious.

Nana Furnavees is of opinion that the Bhyes will on no consideration put themselves into the power of Sindia, but whether this dispute may terminate by negotiation or arms, the season will be too far advanced before it can be accomplished, to admit of hostilities against the Nizam.

No. 241—The Resident represents the Peshwa to be perfectly callous to the impressions of justice or gratitude and advises that all friendship should be suspended with him.

FROM—W. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 3rd May 1799.

My Lord,

Having learned by one of my Hircarahs who came in from the camp of Tippoo's Vakeels on the 30th, that the information which I had received of their advance on their journey, as mentioned in my last address, was erroneous, and that they were still within 12 coss of Poona, I judged it to be my indispensable duty to convey to the Peshwa my sentiments on this disingenuous proceeding and the conclusion which I drew from it in the plain and strong language of the remonstrance contained in the note, of which and the answer to it I have the honour to enclose translates.

I trust that your Lordship will approve of the declarations which I have made to the Peshwa, whose obstinate perseverance in detaining the Sultaun's Vakeels, notwithstanding your Lordship's repeated expostulations, my continual remonstrances, his own ostensible dismissal of them two months ago, and his solemn protestations of maintaining no intercourse with them, must leave the strongest conviction on very impartial mind of his violation of his public faith, and of the inutility of further argument or requisition.

It is not improbable that the Peshwa may now have consented to the final departure of the Vakeels, as I learn from Sheshaudry Pundit who happened to be present when Gopaul Row carried Fukir-ul-Deen's note to Nana Furnavees, that the Minister supported my remonstrance

with great warmth, sending for Ragoo Pundit whom he reproached with severity for acting deceitfully towards him and exposing the Peshwa to a rupture with the allies, after which the Minister took a copy of the note in the Mahratta language and immediately waited upon the Peshwa with it. I have not heard what passed at the interview, but in the disposition in which Nana went to it, I presume, that he stated to the Peshwa in the strongest light the injustice, discredit and dangerous consequences of his conduct. It is only by the latter consideration, which is likely to have made any impression on the perverse and obdurate mind of Bajy Row. But although this motive should at length have deterred him from prosecuting his negotiation with the enemy, the measures which he has already pursued respecting his defensive engagements, would justify his allies in excluding him from any participation in the advantages which may be acquired by the war, and even in renouncing his alliance. But I have been restrained from suggesting either of these consequences to the Peshwa by the knowledge of your Lordship's sentiments and intentions; otherwise I might have thought it expedient to apply to his fears, since he is perfectly callous to the impressions of justice or gratitude. I shall, however, have a memorial prepared which will amply prove your Lordship's moderation and forbearance, if you should deem it necessary in the present circumstances of the alliance to resort to either of the measures above mentioned.

The Paishwa, apprehensive that his rejection of Nana's proposal to conduct the contingent in person would subject him to your Lordship's increased dissatisfaction and just resentment, and being at the same time utterly averse to trusting the Minister in such a situation, declares his resolution to lead his army himself. This declaration is in all probability calculated for the purposes of delay and embarrassment, while it is expected to have the appearance of attachment to the common cause of the allies. I am informed by Gopaul Row that the Peshwa intends to desire a conference with me in the course of two or three days, for the purposes of communicating the above resolution, to concert the means of removing any objection or opposition which Sindia may make to it, and finally to erase the unfavourable impressions which from an unfortunate concurrence of circumstances, had been made on your Lordship's mind of the Peshwa's dispositions and designs.

I hope that the discussions of the intended interview will lead to a discovery of the Peshwa's real views and situation, whatever attempts may be made to palliate his past exceptionable proceedings, or to deceive me into a reliance on the rectitude of his future conduct.

No change has yet taken place in Sindia's Government. Abba Chitnavees remains in full confidence at the Durbar notwithstanding the return of Balloo Tautia, and I understand that it is the policy of Baboo Row Angria to unite both these ministers with himself in the direction

of affairs. Sindia on my representation of Tipoo's Vakeel being still at Hurrupser, obliged him to move and he is today advanced ten coss on his return towards Mysore.

It is publicly reported that the Bhyes, in consequence of the return of Baloo Tautia, have shown a disposition to treat with Sindia, but no authentic information can be expected until a meeting takes place between them and the deputies, who have been dispatched expressly to propose an accommodation. All other objects of Sindia's Government seem to be suspended for the accomplishment of this; although the discourse of his Durbar proclaims his determined resolution to attack the Nazim even at the hazard of His Highness being defended by the British arms.

Nana Furnavees is daily augmenting the force in the city. But his efforts can serve to little purpose except guarding against the seizure of the Peshwa and himself by surprize.

No. 242—The Peshwa was peremptorily asked by the Resident to dismiss Tipu's Vakils beyond the frontier.

Translate of a note from Moonshy Fukir-ul-Deen to Moonshy Gopal Row written on the *30th April 1799*.

The Colonel directs me to represent that to this day the Vakeels of Tippoo Sultaun are at Keekwy, and emissaries are daily passing between them and the Durbar. Hence it is plain that the Paishwa is disposed to friendship with Tippoo and adverse to the Company. No concealment remains; and the Colonel observes that it is useless to make further remonstrance.

Translate of Moonshy Gopal Row's answer.

Your esteemed note is received the day before yesterday. I stated the subject of it to the Minister, and yesterday I related all circumstances to the Peshwa without the least reserve and reminded him of the friendship, which had so long and happily subsisted between this State and the Company. This he acknowledged and conformably to my recommendation consented that a Karkoon should be immediately dispatched to convey the Vakeels beyond the frontier. By noon the Purwana for this purpose will be expedited. The son of Jaggunaut Chintaumuni is appointed to this duty, as you may have heard and the measure was determined before the receipt of your note, of which please to inform the Colonel.

No. 243—Bajirao is reported to be trying to fasten upon Nana the blame of his failure to keep his promises, and to have declared his intention of himself taking the field to assist the allies.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 6th May 1799.

My Lord,

Although I have not yet received any notice from the Peshwa of his desire to see me as I expected from the intimation given to me by Gopal Row, mentioned in my last address, I learn from subsequent conversation of that Moonshy with a third person, that it is the Peshwa's wish to confer with me freely and explicitly on the existing state of the alliance and connection between the two Governments, and his own conduct and intentions relating thereto; but that so unreserved a communication as was necessary in the discussion of these important objects, could not take place in the presence of Nana Furnavees, to whom, as Gopal Row insinuated, was to be ascribed the failure of the Peshwa's defensive engagements and every other exceptionable part of his conduct towards the Company.

As Gopal Row explained that this discourse should be conveyed to me for the purpose of ascertaining whether I had any objection to attend the proposed conference without Nana's assisting at it, that the Peshwa might endeavour to shift the blame of every unjustifiable and offensive proceeding from himself to the Minister, I made no observation on the assertions advanced by Gopal Rhew in exculpation of his Master and only gave my informant to understand, that whether the Minister should be present or not at any interview which I might have with the Peshwa, was a matter entirely within the choice of the latter. This declaration will probably produce an immediate invitation to me to visit the Paishwa, at which no protestations will be spared to make me believe in his ignorance of the subjects of my complaint, and in the sincerity of his intentions to fulfil his defensive engagements and every obligation of alliance and amity, as I hear that he is much disturbed by the tenor of the note which I directed my Moonshy to write to Gopal Rhew on the 30th ultimo.

I learn from Sheshaudry Pundit that the Peshwa has finally declared his resolution to conduct his contingent in person, and that he intends to communicate the resolution to me as soon as he shall have arranged the means of carrying it into execution. But I cannot think he is in earnest, for he has no visible means of accomplishing this measure, which he has not possessed from the hour of being required to furnish his contingent. I therefore regard his declaration as a mere artifice to prevent the Minister being at the head of a considerable force and at the same time to impose appearances of his goodwill upon the allies.

Balloo Tautia seems to be intent on conciliating all parties in Sindia's Government. He defers taking charge of the administration until this point shall be effected, the malcontents reconciled and the arrears of the army discharged, which he proposes to accomplish by voluntary contribution from Sindia's principal servants. He observes that when union and order are restored at home, then will be the proper time to determine on foreign operations. On this subject I am told that his discourse points at the Nazim. But there are too many complicated interests to be adjusted in Sindia's Government to afford leisure for carrying any designs which he may meditate against His Highness into execution before effectual measures may be taken to defeat them.*

The Vakeel deputed by Tippoo to Sindia is still within four coss of Poona. On my representing this circumstance to Sindia's ministers they answer that having refrained from all intercourse with him and compelled him to retire from the vicinity of their cantonments, they have no right to prevent his disposing of himself as he pleases, and they desire me to be perfectly assured that they will have no connection with him whatever.

I forward to Mr. Edmonstone by this post, letters to your Lordship's address from the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees, relating to the dismissal of the two Vakeels from the Sultaun to this Government. I presume that the Peshwa and the Minister have too much respect for your Lordship to attempt to deceive you in the assurances contained in these letters, and I therefore conclude that the Vakeels will now be actually conveyed beyond the frontier.

The Peshwa has this day publicly announced his intention to take the field, attended by his brothers and the Minister, and has ordered his tents to be pitched on the 9th. I do not yet know what immediate effects this sudden declaration is intended to produce, but I have little faith in its being serious.

No. 244—The writer forwards a letter supposed to be written by Kashirao Holkar and not properly addressed to the Governor General and he desires the Resident to ascertain if it is genuine.

FROM—N. B. EDMONSTONE, PERSIAN TRANSLATOR,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort, St. George, 23rd April 1799.

Sir,

Having lately received a letter from the acting Agent at Benares enclosing one, and said to be from Cashee Row Holkar, to the Right Honourable the

* The Resident is instructed to intimate Sindia that any move on his part against the Nizam would be looked upon as a declaration of war against the Company itself. See the Governor General's letter dated 25th April 1799, Martin Vol. I, p 556.

Governor General, and judging from the mistake of the name in the address and the evident difference which appears on a comparison between the impression of its seal, and that upon other letters from Cashee Row Holkar, that the letter in question is a forgery, I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General to transmit it to you, with a request that you will ascertain the fact by reference to Cashee Row Holkar himself. Should he acknowledge it to be genuine, he will not be exempted from the charge of great disrespect towards his Lordship in suffering a letter so addressed and wanting the authentication of his usual seal, to be forwarded on his part. Neither does his Lordship consider it proper that an application of the nature contained in the letter should be made in so indirect and unofficial a manner.

No. 245—The Resident communicates to the Governor General the disordered affairs of Sindia and the intention of the Peshwa to take the field in person against Tipu Sultan

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 10th May 1799

My Lord,

I have been honoured with your Lordship's commands of the 25th ultimo. I am concerned that the report of the Peshwa's and Sindia's design against the Nazim did not occur to me as a motive for withholding from the former Your Lordship's assurance of securing his share of any cessions which may be obtained by the allies from Tippoo Suldaun, but having in my conference with the Minister on the 18th ultimo made your Lordship's declaration conditional on the Peshwa's abstaining from all further intercourse with Tippoo, and of his affording to his allies all the assistance which his circumstances would actually admit, this reservation must be allowed to apply much more forcibly, if the Peshwa instead of assisting his allies should attack either of them. But independent of this consideration the Paishwa has forfeited all claim which he might have founded on your Lordship's promise, by his infringement of the first condition in detaining and corresponding with the Mysore Vakeels during the space of twenty days subsequent to my declaration made to the Minister.

It is, perhaps, to his consciousness of having forfeited his right to any participation in the expected acquisitions from Tippoo and the prospect of a termination of the war while he labours under this forfeiture, that the Peshwa at length assumes some appearance of disposition to fulfil his

defensive engagements in the actual progressive retreat of the Sultaun's Vakeels towards the frontier, and in his avowed resolution to enter his tents within a few days for the purpose of heading his contingent against the common enemy.

This measure has not yet been formally notified to me, nor can I judge of the Peshwa's real intention to carry it into effect, but it has been finally determined on after some objections from Nana Furnavees relating to the difficulty of making, in the present circumstances of the state, a suitable provision for the accommodation and dignity of the Peshwa at the head of the army in person.

I have been informed of the above circumstances from Gopal Row, through the same channel by which he made the communications mentioned in my last address, to which he added that the Peshwa found he could not with propriety dispense with the presence of Nana Furnavees at the public interview which he wished to have with me, but he would afterwards invite me to a private entertainment at which he should have an opportunity of conversing with me unreservedly.

It is difficult to reconcile the insinuated disaffection of the Minister towards the allies with any serious intention in the Peshwa of prosecuting the war against Tipoo, since he can neither collect an army nor subsist it but by the aid of Nana's personal credit and influence; and it is wholly incompatible with that confidence and attachment towards the Minister, of which the Peshwa daily renews his protestations; it is however possible that in this proceeding Bajy Row has no other view than to recover his situation in the triple alliance, and to reap the advantages of it by transferring the blame of misconduct to his Minister. If he gives me the private interview which he proposes, I may discover from what he says what he wishes to conceal, and it is much suspected that under pretext of taking the field against Tippoo he has concerted with Sindia the means of betraying Nana into the hands of the latter, which cannot easily be effected in the city. I observe that Sindia is acquainted with the Peshwa's intention to enter his tents in the course of two or three days and has not yet made any ostensible objection to it.

Expecting to learn Sindia's sentiments and intentions respecting the Nazim and his situation and views in general with more certainty from conversation with him and his confidants than from correspondence, I signified my desire to wait upon him, and he appointed yesterday evening for my visit. But a fit of the gout coming upon me in the interval which rendered me incapable of going abroad, and he (or his Ministers) being impatient to know the nature of my intended communications, sent Bhow Bukshy to me yesterday morning to desire I would impart them to him for Doulut Rao's information.

The Bhow denied his own personal knowledge of any design in his master to disturb the tranquillity of the Nazim's dominions, and observed

that the disorders and distresses of the government were conclusive reasons with him for disbelieving it. If such a design had been unadvisedly suggested, it must have been in a different state of the administration and he was sure it would not be adopted while Balloo Tautia had power to prevent it. The Bhow did not forget to make profession of his own attachment to the Company, nor to promise the exertion of his influence in the counsels of Sindia to maintain the friendly connection which had so long subsisted between the two Governments and which he had been a principal agent in establishing. I desired him to report the representation which I had made from your Lordship, to his master and to acquaint him that I wished to wait upon him for his answer as soon as I should be able to go abroad.

Without much regarding Bhow Bukshy's assurances of the disposition of Sindia or his Ministers to refrain from any measures injurious or offensive to the Company, his assertion of the weak and disordered state of the Government may be relied on for its inability to make any formidable attack on the Nazim. Balloo Tautia hesitates to take charge of the ministry, as no security has yet been offered to him on which he can depend for the exercise of it with advantage to the State and safety to himself. It is required of him to effect a reconciliation with the Bhyes and to become responsible for the arrears of the troops, without any means afforded to him by the Government, of executing such engagements as it may be necessary to conclude for these purposes. The Bhyes declare that they will not treat of accommodation until Balloo Tautia's power is completely established, and then only with him in person. In the meantime Baboo Row Angria is the efficient minister, and it is suspected that neither he nor Sindia intend to fulfil any engagements which may be made for the advantage and security of the Bhyes and their adherents, but merely under the faith of treaty to get them into their power. With such treacherous views or the suspicion of them the adjustment of these differences seems to be as remote as ever, and how they will terminate it is difficult even to conjecture. But while they subsist Sindia can give little or no serious disturbance to his neighbours in any quarter. The depredations of his Pendarahs or Bedrahs in the Nazim's territories it is perhaps not in his power to prevent, and they are easily repelled.

I just now learn on good authority that the Peshwa has consented to the conditions demanded by Pursaram Bhow for invading the dominions of Tippoo, and has in consequence directed him to proceed immediately on this service, informing him at the same time that he shall himself in a few days enter his tents in order to prosecute the war in person.

It appears extraordinary that the Peshwa should not have advised me of his having adopted a measure so acceptable to your Lordship and tending to remove the impressions of his want of fidelity to his allies.

Of his intrigue with the enemy probably it is not in so advanced a stage as is reported to me. But I think it not unlikely that both the Peshwa and Sindia may now be convinced by the successful progress of the war in Mysore, of the danger as well as disadvantage of giving further obstruction to the co-operation of this State. I shall instantly advise your Lordship and the Commander-in-Chief of such communications as the Peshwa may make to me on this subject.

No. 246—The Resident replies to the query about the improper address used towards the G. G. by Kasirao Holkar (vide No. 244), who on inspection said that the letter was not addressed by him.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE PERSIAN TRANSLATOR.

Poona, 10th May 1799.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a duplicate of my letter of the 6th instant addressed to the Right Honourable the Governor General, and to forward for his Lordship's information, copies of intelligence from the camp of Lacawa Dada.

I sent the Persian letter enclosed in your of the 23rd ultimo for the inspection of Kashee Row Holkar, who having examined it with his Moonshy, denied any knowledge of it, and imputed it to the person in charge of the relics of Tookojee Holkar and ascribed the impropriety in the address to his ignorance. Kashee Row added that he had himself written to the Governor General on the same subject under Khareeta and in the proper address which, he supposed, would by this have been received.

No. 247—Palmer writes to the G. G. informing him that he had not yet had an audience with Sindia on the subject of his designs against the Nizam's dominions.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 13th May 1799.

My Lord,

I have not since my last address received any communication from the Peshwa, respecting the arrangements which he has in contemplation

for furnishing his contingent and conducting it in person. But I learn by other means that he adheres to his declarations on these points and that he has ordered the force under Dhoondia Punt Ghokla to join Pursaram Bhow. It does not appear that Sindia has made any opposition to this measure, though he has been formally advised of it.

I understand that your Lordship's sentiments and resolution on the meditated attack of the Nazim's dominions, have engaged the constant deliberation of Sindia and his ministers. But no answer has yet been given to my representations made through Bhow Bukshy, nor can I discover in what manner they are likely to operate. It is, however, my opinion that Sindia will disavow any hostile designs against His Highness. I have given him notice that I am now able to wait upon him whenever it may suit him to receive me.

I notified to the Peshwa the message which I had delivered by your Lordship's commands to Sindia, which Gopal Row has just now informed me that he has reported to him and to the minister, and has received their orders to attend me this day. As he will not make his visit until evening, I shall be obliged to defer his communications to another dispatch.

No. 248—The Governor General forwards to the Resident a copy of his letter to the Governor of Bombay and asks him to keep the matter secret.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort St George, 2nd May 1799.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter written by me on the 30th ultimo to the Governor of Bombay.

I design this communication at present for your private information alone. I shall, in the event of its becoming necessary to open the negotiation with Pursaram Bhow mentioned in the enclosure, furnish you with the necessary instructions for disclosing the matter to the Peshwa with such explanations as I may judge expedient,

No. 249—The Resident communicates to the Governor General the desire of the Peshwa to send his contingent to co-operate in the war and the terms he had offered to Parshuram Bhau for undertaking the service.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 14th May 1799.

My Lord,

Moonshy Gopa Row came to me yesterday evening according to his appointment and informed me that he was directed by the Paishwa to express his great regret at the delay which had taken place in furnishing his contingent to the war against Tippoo Sultaun, that he had not been averse or indifferent to the discharge of his obligations in the triple alliance, but had been unable to comply with them from the disorders which have so long prevailed in his Government. These he had flattered himself would ere now have been composed, but finding the prospect of accommodation as distant as ever he was now determined to execute his defensive engagements in the best manner which his circumstances would admit. For this purpose he had made great sacrifices to engage Pursaram Bhaw to advance with his whole force against the Sultaun's northern dominions. Sunnuds had been dispatched to the Bhaw granting every demand which he had made for engaging in this service, and lest the Bhaw should recede from his proposals thus acceded to, which however was not apprehended, Dhoondia Punt Gokhla had been authorized and instructed and enabled eventually to proceed with his force on the same service. In either case, Gopal Row said, that a body of 15,000 cavalry would be employed, and that this force would be on the south of the Tungbadra by the end of this moon. Pursaram Bhaw is reported to be in a bad state of health, but it is supposed that if he should be unable to take the field himself, he will depute his son.

The Moonshy stated that the Minister and himself had been unremitting in their endeavours to impress upon the mind of the Peshwa a sense of his reputation and true interests in the performance of his defensive engagements. I made no observation on the inconsistency of this declaration as it regards the conduct of the Minister with the private intimation of it conveyed to me by Gopal Row himself. It is sufficient to guard against the systematical falsehood and imposition of the people and to judge of their intentions only by their actions.

I expressed to Gopal Row my satisfaction at the information which he had given to me and my hope that no disappointment or further delay would take place and that it would be in the Peshwa's power to augment the force now appointed to act against the enemy. The Moonshy in

answer made earnest profession of the Peshwa's sincere disposition to co-operate in the most effectual manner with his allies.

As Gopal Row made no mention of the Peshwa's intention to conduct his contingent in person, I enquired of him whether there was any foundation for such a report. He answered that the measure was seriously intended and the means of executing it under deliberation. I observed that if the Peshwa should personally engage in the war, it would tend perhaps, more than any other circumstance now in his power to remove the doubts of his designs which had been excited in the minds of his allies by the transactions of which I had been so frequently obliged to complain.



Although I have no opinion of the Peshwa's ability or inclination to take the field himself, I am inclined to believe that a conviction of his interest, induced by the progress of the British arms in Mysore, has engaged his serious attention to the means of co-operating in the war, before the campaign is likely to close.

The period stated for the contingent passing the Tungbudra is not unnecessarily remote. It requires nine or ten days to convey the sunnuds to Pursaram Bhow, which were dispatched only yesterday, and his position is some days march from that river.

The cessions made to the Bhow seem sufficiently ample to engage him in the service required, he is to be put in possession of the fort of Darwar, to retain several purgannahs of which he has forcibly possessed himself in Shanoor, to commute by a partial payment to the troops, a fine of 15 lacs of rupees imposed upon him for his liberation from confinement after Bajy Row's recovery of the musnud, and to obtain the release of his partizans who are still confined.

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 2nd instant. I hope that the advance of the Peshwa's contingent will preclude the necessity of having recourse to the negotiation referred to in your Lordship's letter to Mr. Duncan, as I am doubtful whether Pursaram Bhow would engage without the Peshwa's permission which would expose him to the forfeiture of his possessions in the Mahratta State, and from the jealous and envious disposition of Bajy Row I doubt whether his consent could be obtained.

Gopal Row made no direct communication to me of the Peshwa's sentiments on your Lordship's message to Sindia. But on my desiring to know what they were, he said that the Peshwa would use all his influence with Sindia to dissuade him from any attempt to disturb the tranquillity of the Nazim's dominions

No. 250—The Governor General instructs the Resident at Nagpur to arrange with the Bhosla Raja a treaty of defensive alliance against Doulatrao Sindia, in case the latter should attack the Nizam.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT NAGPUR.

Fort St. George, 25th April 1799.

You will herewith receive copies of two letters and enclosures lately received from the Resident at Poona. You will also receive a copy of a letter to me from the Resident at Hyderabad dated the 17th instant.

The proof furnished by these letters of the hostile designs of Sindia against the Nizam in the first instance, and ultimately against the Company, demands the adoption of immediate measures for repelling any attempt which Sindia may make upon the Nizam's territories.

With this view I direct that you arrange with the Court of Nagpur, in concert with that of Hyderabad, as speedily as possible a treaty of defensive alliance between the Company, the Nizam and the Raja of Berar and their successors, expressly framed to counteract the hostile projects of Doulut Rao Sindia.

The sole object of the treaty must be the mutual defence of the territories of the contracting powers against any attack of Doulut Rao Sindia. But care must be taken to provide that the attack on any part of the territories of the Nawaub of Oude shall be considered as an attack upon the Company's possessions.

With respect to the participation of eventual conquest from Doulut Rao Sindia, in case of any rupture between him and the contracting powers, this and other details cannot, perhaps, be better adjusted than upon the principles of the treaties of Pangul and Poona.

An article must be inserted in the treaty for the purpose of enabling the Peshwa to accede to the alliance within a period of one month from the date of his being invited to do so by the British Government.

The Resident at Hyderabad will receive instructions from me to communicate with the Nizam on the subject of the present instructions, and to transmit to you with all practicable dispatch the result of the deliberations of the Court of Hyderabad on the occasion.

You will observe that the absence of the greatest and most efficient part of the Nizam's forces in Mysore, joined to the inability of the Company in the present conjuncture, to afford him any prompt assistance in troops, leaves His Highness's territories considerably exposed to the attempts of Sindia. It is therefore extremely desirable, and it must be as nearly

the object of your care, to engage the Rajah of Berar to place his army without delay in such a position as may best enable him, in the event of hostilities with Sindia, to afford the Nizam most speedy and effectual aid either by a junction with the Nizam's forces, or by a powerful diversion on the side of Sindia's possessions in Malwah

No. 251—The Resident forwards to the Governor General news from Poona, particularly regarding the treacherous attitude of the Peshwa.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17 May 1799

My Lord,

On the 15th I received a visit from Sheshaudry Pundit to inform me that he had concluded and transmitted to Hyderabad an agreement with the Peshwa, for the surrender to the Nizam, in perpetuity, the whole district of Bidar and another territorial possession to produce four and half lacs of rupees annually, that is of the reversion of three-fourths of Bidar which His Highness now holds during life, and of the remaining fourth held by the Peshwa, for these cessions the Nizam is to pay to the Peshwa twenty-five lacs of rupees, and to furnish him with a powerful force to repair immediately to Poona.

I am at a loss to understand how the last mentioned stipulation is to be executed. I apprehend that His Highness must at this time be unable to detach such a force as could make its way to Poona in opposition to Sindia and it is not to be supposed that the latter will permit it on any pretext to join the Peshwa. Neither is it probable that the Peshwa himself seriously intends to require it, considering the good understanding which subsists between Azim-ul-Omra and Nana Furnavees, his sole object, perhaps, is to obtain the money price of his cessions.

In the course of my conversation with Sheshaudry Pundit, I learned that Pursaram Bhow has lately, in answer to a prior application for his services against Tippoo, excused himself by the near approach of the periodical rise of the Tungbudra, and by his apprehensions of the Rajah of Koulapore. I do not know whether the Peshwa's concessions will tempt him to encounter those obstacles. But Nana Furnavees thinks they will not, although the fort of Darwar has been gratuitously conceded to the Bhow on his intimating that he had no place of security for his family in his absence.

Sheshadry Pundit is of opinion that Dhoondia Punt Ghokla will pass into the enemy's country, if Pursaram Bhow should decline it, but with a force more calculated to preserve appearance for the Peshwa's advantage, than to render any essential service to the common cause. This opinion is strangely corroborated by the report of one of my Hircarrahs who returned yesterday from the camp of Tippoo's Vakeels, whom he left within thirty coss of Poona. They had halted several days and been joined by the Vakeel deputed to Sindia. Before this man came away, a shouter-sewar had arrived from Surungpattun who, with three others in his company, had been intercepted by the partizans of the Bhyes. He escaped wounded, his companions were detained, messengers were dispatched by the Vakeels to Ragoo Pundit on the arrival of the shuter-sewar. But I am not informed whether they brought any letters from the Sultaun to the Court of Poona. This perseverance of the Paishwa in his intercourse with the enemy, after so many solemn protestations of its having ceased and at the moment when he is making the strongest professions of his fidelity and attachment to his allies, may be considered as conclusive proof of his unalterable resolution to favour the interests of Tippoo, as far as he can do so with impunity, whatever appearance he may assume to the contrary, and confirms the general opinion of his utter disregard of faith, veracity or reputation.

I directed Meer Fukir-ul-Dein to inform Moonshy Gopal Row, that I was not ignorant of his shameless imposition upon me in the assurances which he had given me, at his last interview, of the Sultaun's Vakeels being compelled to prosecute their journey daily, and of all correspondence between them and the Durbar being at an end. But I could add nothing to the remonstrances so often made on this subject. I enclose the Moonshy's answer translated merely to produce to your Lordship an instance of the mean subterfuges to which the Peshwa is capable of resorting when he desires to palliate or conceal his breach of promise and violation of public engagements.

Sindia has hitherto evaded to receive a visit from me by answering to my intimation of being able to attend him, that Bhow Bukshy had not made his appearance at the Durbar since he reported his conversation with me. I cannot yet discover what is his real motive for deferring to see me, or to answer your Lordship's communication. I am, however, persuaded that it will effectually deter him from any hostile attempts against the Nazim, and indeed such are the embarrassments of his government, both here and in Hindostan, and so distant the prospect of their being removed, that I think his neighbours in both quarters are perfectly secure from his power, whatever may be his designs.

The Bhyes seem to treat his deputation with great indifference, if not with contempt; instead of meeting it, or waiting its arrival, they have retired to Koulapore to celebrate the nuptials of a daughter of the late

Mahdjee Sindia with a son of the Rajah It is thought that they will never accept of any conditions of accommodation from Doulut Rao, unless under a guarantee sufficiently powerful to compel him to adhere to his engagements

No. 252—This note mentions why the Vakils of Tipu had been detained on the way.

Translate of a note from Moonshy Gopalrao to Meer-Fukir-ul-Dien.

Dated 15th May 1799.

Your esteemed note is received and the contents are understood. A week has elapsed since I received a letter from the Karkoon appointed to convey the Vakeels on their return, informing me that their servants are very refractory for want of pay and will not permit them to proceed. It appears that on account of the troubles in which Tippoo is involved no money has been remitted to the Vakeels For this reason they have sent Kisnajee Pundit, Karkoon to Ragoo Pundit, to obtain a loan and write that the festival of the Eade being near and they in want of money, they will wait until that period and then prosecute their journey without delay The Peshwa has refused to supply them with any money, of which Ragoo Pundit has informed them. At this time the Peshwa is most cordially the Friend of the Company

No. 253—Palmer reports that both the Peshwa and Sindia were acting with the same duplicity towards the British and maintaining correspondence with Tipu.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Poona, 20th May 1799.

My Lord,

The Peshwa seems determined to risk all consequences of breach of engagements to his allies, rather than desist from his intercourse with Tippoo, which I am persuaded he maintains as much from partiality to the cause of that Prince as from a prospect of advantage to himself. The Mysore Vakeels were on the 18th when one of my Hircarabs left

them to bring me information, on the same spot as mentioned in my last address, and messengers daily pass between them and Ragoo Pundit, the Peshwa's agent.

Bajy Row flatters himself that by the concessions which he has offered to Pursaram Bhow on the one hand and by the encouragement which he gives to Tippoo on the other, he deceives both parties, and that under these appearances he can defer his decision until circumstances shall determine him on which side it will be most for his interests to arrange himself. But his heart is with the Sultaun, for I have been credibly informed that, notwithstanding his habitual dissimulation, he is not able to conceal his mortification at any intelligence of the success of the British army. I have no experience of a disposition so perverse as that of this young prince who seems invariably to bestow his regard and attachment on those persons who are adverse or indifferent to him, and his enmity on his friends and benefactors.

Sindia has not yet signified when he will receive the visit which I have proposed to make to him. Gunput Roy however informs me that the subject of your Lordship's message has caused much anxious deliberation in his Durbar, and that he intends to send Bhow Bukshy to me again before he wishes to see me. But the Bhow having incurred the resentment of Balloo Tautia, is afraid to attend the Durbar and remains in the city making excuses in answer to the summons which have been sent to him. Balloo Tautia told Gunput Roy, that he had entirely disapproved of the design entertained against the Nazim, and on its being first communicated to him had told the advisers of it, that they were precipitating their master to his ruin. He did not inform Gunput Roy whether any resolution had been taken in consequence of the disclosure of your Lordship's sentiments.

Gunput Roy says that Sindia is acting with the same duplicity as the Peshwa in maintaining a correspondence with the Vakeel of Tippoo, whom he affected so readily to dismiss and who is still in company with those deputed to the Peshwa.

I believe that Sindia as well as the Peshwa is perfectly disposed to espouse the cause of Tippoo if his circumstances would admit of his taking a part in the present contest. They are both jealous and envious of the superiority of the British Government, although it has been exerted towards them only in acts of friendship and generosity and protection. Fortunately they have hitherto been precluded by the weakness and distractions of their own governments from taking an active part against the allies, and in this state of imbecility they are likely to remain. But that degree of connection which to this day manifestly subsists between them and the Sultaun, can scarcely have failed to encourage him to a more obstinate refusal of satisfaction to the allies than he otherwise would have made.

No further progress has been made in settling Sindia's administration. Balloo Tautia requires power adequate to the responsibility of the charge to be conferred on him and whether he will obtain it or not, seems to depend on the sincerity of Doulut Rhaw's intentions towards the Bhyes and their adherents, as these will not treat of an accommodation unless Tautia is completely enabled to fulfil the conditions of it. The ladies are expected to approach nearer to Poona for the convenience of conference after the celebration of the marriage at Koulapur, when all Sindia's detachments are to be recalled.

No. 254—News of the fall of Seringapatam and the death of Tipu is communicated to the Governor General.

FROM—GENERAL HARRIS,

TO—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Seringapatam the 4th of May 1799.

My Lord,

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship that this day at 1 o'clock a division of the army under my command assaulted Seringaputtum, and that at half past 2 o'clock the place was entirely in our possession. Tippoo Sultaun fell in the assault. Two of his sons, the Sultaun Paudshaw and Moyaen-ud-Dien, are prisoners with many principal Sirdars. Our loss is trifling and our success has been complete. I will send your Lordship details hereafter.

No. 255—Palmer requests the protection of the Benares Resident for the agent of Nana Fadnis in completing certain buildings and a bridge across the river Karmansa.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE AGENT AT BENARES.

Poona, 22nd May 1799.

Sir,

Three or four years ago, Nana Furnayees obtained permission from Government to erect some buildings in Benares and to build a bridge

over the river Carumnassa. These works have been suspended in consequence of the public troubles in which Nana Furnavees has been involved. I now, at the particular request of that Minister, beg leave to solicit your protection to Termuk Rhow Narain Pursoory, the Superintendent of these structures, in renewing and completing them, and that you will be so good as to station two of your chuprasses with him, for the purpose of preventing any impediment being given to the renewal of the work.

No. 256—Palmer reports the disavowal by Sindia of any hostile intentions on his part either towards the British or their ally the Nizam. The Peshwa also offered his congratulations to the Resident on the fall of Seringapatam.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 24th May 1799.

My Lord,

Bhow Bukshy made me another visit on the 21st to communicate Sindia's answer to your Lordship's intention of your resolution to support His Highness the Nazim if his dominions should be attacked by any Power whatsoever, while he is engaged with the Company in prosecuting the war against Tippoo Sultaun.

The Bhow prefaced his discourse with assurances of Sindia's firm attachment to the Company and to the interests of the British nation at large, and of his sincere desire to maintain and improve the connection, intercourse and good correspondence, which had been established between his Government and that of the Company by his predecessor, of which he would give your Lordship proof on all practicable occasions.

Bhow Bukshy then proceeded to apologise for Sindia's continuance in the Deccan, contrary to your Lordship's repeated representations. He said that Sindia was disposed both by his own interests and a regard to your Lordship's views and recommendations, to proceed to Hindustan, but he could not undertake that measure without risking the subversion of his Government if he should leave the Bhyes and their adherents a liberty to pursue their designs against him, in which they would obtain ample support in this quarter.

The Bhow desirous of excusing Sindia's conduct in every transaction which had given your Lordship cause of dissatisfaction, next adverted to the appearance of the Vakeel deputed to him by Tippoo, repeating the

assertions before made of this person having arrived within a coss of the cantonments before Sindia was apprized of his approach ; that on my representation he was sent away without an interview and that no correspondence whatsoever had been maintained with him.

Bhow Bucksly then came to the express subject of his visit. He said that Sindia had directed him to disavow any hostile intentions against the Nazim, but he had a claim upon His Highness for thirty-five lacs of rupees, and he had too much confidence in your Lordship's justice and impartiality to suppose you would interfere to prevent the recovery of his right.

Having expressed to the Bhow my satisfaction at the desire which Doulut Bhow had shown to assure your Lordship of the rectitude of his intentions in all those points which appearances had rendered doubtful, and particularly on that in question, I observed that the Maharaja's claim was liable to objection arising from the Peshwa's construction of its having been satisfied by a payment which he made to Sindia of two crores of rupees, in which this claim was understood to be included, and that on whichever side the misconstruction lay, it was a subject of amicable discussion and not of appeal to arms ; and I assured the Bhow that your Lordship would never oppose any right of Sindia fairly established

On this Bhow Bucksly said that it would be perfectly agreeable to Sindia to adjust the dispute by the mode which I had suggested. He would be glad if the Nazim would depute a person of character and note to his Durbar fully empowered to this effect and he wished that I would intimate this desire to the Court of Hyderabad.

I mentioned to the Bhow the frequent complaints made by the Nazim's Aumils and foudedars, of the depredations committed in His Highness's territories by Sindia's Pindaras, observing that if the Nazim had taken no advantage of the troubles in Sindia's family and Government to disturb or injure his possessions, it was incumbent on him by every means in his power to put a stop to these ravages. The Bhow said that the Pindarabs complained of were in fact in his service, having called for their assistance to repel the depredations of the cavalry attached to Bhyes, but he had little or no control over them, as they acted separately from his regular troops, and would not receive any Sirdar from him to regulate their proceedings. He himself had similar complaints against the Pindarabs in the service of Ragoojee Bhonsla, but he did not hold that chief responsible for them.

Although not the smallest degree of credit is due to Sindia's assertion of not having entertained any hostile project against the Nazim, his formal disavowal of it to your Lordship is tolerable security against his now attempting to carry it into execution if there were no other

considerations to restrain him, as it is not likely that he would thus furnish additional cause of complaint and justification of interference.

But the divisions in Sindia's family and government seem of themselves sufficient to deter him from provoking foreign quarrels. His administration is not settled, and the Bhyes decline to treat of accommodation until Balloo Tautia's power is adequate to the performance of any conditions which may be stipulated in their favour. It is probable that both the jealousy of Sindia and the interests of his favourites oppose such a degree of power in any Minister, and there is no saying how long the disaffection of the Bhyes may be protracted, nor to what extent it may spread.

Intelligence is received at Sindia's durbar of Lucawa Dada and Balloo Row who was opposed to him, having had an interview and agreed to refrain from further hostilities in consequence of injunctions to both parties from Doulut Row and Tautia. As Balloo Rhow is the brother of Ambajee, who is at enmity with Tautia, this transaction is supposed to indicate a reconciliation which the parties may think necessary for mutual support. Both are adverse to M. Perron.

The Peshwa has given me no information respecting his contingent since his communications through Gopal Row on the 13th instant, and those I have reason to believe, were substantially false; for to this hour he has not dispatched the Sunnuds to Pursaram Bhow which the Moonshy told me had been sent off the day before, and if he has directed Dhoondia Punt Gokla to invade Bednore, he had not furnished him with the money required to put his troops in motion.

On my advising him of the first intelligence which was brought to Ryacotah and Pinagra of the capture of Seringapatam, he immediately sent Moonshy Sunker Row to me, and with an affectation of rejoicing as disgusting as his indifference to, and insolent disregard of, the incessant and pressing instances which have been made to him to fulfil his defensive engagements, desired to know whether he should order a salute, and write a letter of congratulation to your Lordship. I answered that it would be time enough to make those compliments when your Lordship should announce the event, and on my communicating the advice which I subsequently received from your Lordship, both he and Sindia fired salutes.

Moonshy Gopal Row came to me yesterday evening to offer his personal congratulations and took the opportunity to endeavour to impress upon me the belief of Nana Furnavees having caused the failure of the Peshwa's engagements in the view of discrediting him with your Lordship, and of the Peshwa being most cordially attached to the Company's Government and interests. I observed, that Nana Furnavees by such a conduct risked more than he could gain, since it was always in the Peshwa's power to discover it and exonerate himself. But the assertion whether it regards

the motive, the means, or the interests, of Nana is wholly incredible Gopalrao made no mention whatever of the contingent and I made no enquiry, lest the Peshwa should infer from it that I consider him as eligible to participate in the advantages which may accrue from the exclusive exertions of his allies. Tippoo Sultaun's Vakeels have made no progress on the return to Mysore since my last address.

- **No. 256A**—*Palmer offers congratulations to the Governor General on the fall of Seringapatam, and on the prospect of a permanent peace.*

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 24th May 1799

My Lord,

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 11th Instant, with a copy of General Harris's letter of advice of the capture of Seringapatam, enclosed.

I beg leave to offer my sincere congratulations to your Lordship on this important conquest, and on the prospect which it opens, of an early advantageous and permanent peace

- No. 257**—The Governor General instructs the Resident not to extend any hopes to the Peshwa about his participation in the cessions and benefits acquired by the fall of Tipu Sultan

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA

Fort St George, 14th May 1799

Sir,

It is necessary to apprise you that I do not propose to invite the Peshwa to an equal participation with the Company and the Nazim, of the advantages resulting from our late success at Seringapatam. In strict justice he is entitled to no share whatever in those advantages, nor under the qualification by which you very properly accompanied the declaration, authorized by my instructions of the 3rd of April, can he found any claim

upon terms of that declaration. Considerations of policy will, however, incline me to extend the benefit acquired by the joint effects of the Company and of the Nizam, even to this faithless ally of the cessions which it may be expedient to make to him. I cannot at present state the precise extent; much will depend on the conduct he shall observe, and much on the disposition which he may indicate towards the Nizam.

I shall probably insist on the Peshwa's accepting of my arbitration of his claims on the Nizam, as the preliminary condition of my securing to the Peshwa any share of the conquered territory.

The present communication will enable you to regulate your language with regard to any expectations or hopes, which you may understand the Peshwa to have formed in consequence of the overthrow of the Government of Mysore, until I can instruct you more fully on the subject.

You may expect to hear from me soon after my arrival at Seringputtum, to which place I intend to proceed in a few days.

No. 258—The Governor General announces to the Peshwa his glorious victory over Tipu Sultan.

FROM—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE PESHWA.

14th May 1799.

I have already had the honour to communicate to you the repeated successes which have crowned the efforts of the British troops and of those of His Highness the Nizam, and I have now the utmost satisfaction in communicating the glorious intelligence of the capture of Seringapatam, which was taken by assault on the 4th of May, with a very inconsiderable loss on the part of the allies. Tippoo Sultaun fell in the attack, and two of his sons by name Sultaun Paudshah and Moyn-ud-Deen, with many principal Sirdars, were taken prisoners. Treasure to a large amount and a vast quantity of grain, and military stores, have also fallen into the hands of the victorious army. The families of the Sultaun and of the principal officers of his government, which were in the fort, have received full protection, and no violence nor plunder has been permitted. The body of Tippoo Sultaun has been interred with military honours in the mausoleum of his father. I trust that this signal success will be shortly followed by the cessation of hostilities.

I congratulate you on this event so glorious to the allied arms, and affording so happy a prospect of durable tranquillity.

I propose to proceed myself to Seringapatam in a few days in order to adjust the affairs of the conquered kingdom. When I shall have arrived at that city, and have formed a competent judgment of the state of the country, I shall communicate to you the plan of a general arrangement, which, I trust will prove satisfactory to you

You will be happy to hear that Fattah Hyder, son of the late Tippoo Sultaun who remained in the field, had offered to surrender himself to the allied forces.

The same to Daulat Row Sindia as the foregoing as far as (the words) "durable tranquillity" then, I have the pleasure to inform you that I propose to proceed myself to Seringapatam in a few days in order to adjust the affairs of the conquered kingdom

No. 259—The Resident reports to the Governor General the alarm and consternation caused to the Peshwa and Sindia by the news of the fall of Tipu Sultan.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 27th May 1799.

My Lord,

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 14th instant. No intimation has been given to me of the Peshwa's expectations in the distribution of cessions which may be acquired by the successful termination of the war with Tippoo Sultaun. But I conclude that he is aware of not being entitled, under existing circumstances, to any participation whatever, as I learn from Sheshaudry Pundit, that Nana Furnavees in his presence observed to Narroo Punt Chuckerdeo, the Peshwa's agent, that if his constant advice to send a force to co-operate with the allies had not been totally disregarded and it should have advanced only fifty coss, your Lordship would have admitted this state to some portion of the advantages which would now be certainly obtained, and I hear from other persons, that the Peshwa has urged Dhondia Punt Gokhla to advance and pass the Tungbudra with the utmost expedition and without waiting for supplies of any kind, which should follow him.

This measure adopted after, he must suppose the war to be concluded, cannot in the least strengthen his pretensions to any share in the successes of it, and I fear that on whatever considerations and to whatever extent

your Lordship may find it expedient to admit him to participate with his allies, it will not secure either his attachment or fidelity. I shall observe silence on this subject until communication of the Peshwa's views or other circumstances, may make it advisable to speak in that guarded language, which the nature of your Lordship's intentions requires.

All reports concur in stating both the Peshwa and Sindia to be in great consternation at the intelligence from Serungapattam and that consequent of their breach of faith, and perhaps, of treachery, they are apprehensive of your Lordship's just resentment and meditating the means of averting or opposing it by a close union and concert between the two Durbars.

I am further informed that Sindia has enjoined Lacawa Dada and Balloo Row to proceed with their united force immediately to Agra instead of Lacawa's marching to the relief of Ogiene, invaded by Jesswunt Rhaw Holkaur, as determined on the first intelligence of Lacawa's return to his allegiance. If this report is true, Sindia can have been induced only by the most serious alarm on the side of Hindostan, to abandon Malwa to the ravages of Jesswunt Row.

I have apprized the Peshwa of your Lordship's intention to proceed to Seringapatam, to which he has answered only "that it is well". But as your letters to him, Sindia and Nana Furnavees are just now arrived, I purpose to wait upon him in expectation of learning his sentiments and hopes on the glorious successes which they announce.

No. 260—The Resident communicates to the Governor General the great regret that the Peshwa felt at the news of Tipu's death and the fall of his capital.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 31st May 1799.

My Lord,

I waited upon the Peshwa on the 28th and presented to him in full Durbar your Lordship's letter of congratulation on the capture of Seringapatam. He expressed much satisfaction at this important event, ordered a salute and made me a present of jewels, but did not open the letter, nor make any enquiry into the circumstances of the conquest, the death of Tippoo Sultaun, or the probable consequences of this decisive success. Neither did the Peshwa or the Minister, to whom I had previously made a visit, give the smallest intimation of their expectations in the advantages which may be obtained by the allies.

It is probably with a view to a plausible claim of sharing with his allies, that the Peshwa has at last dispatched the sunnuds for the cession of Shanoor and Darwar, the Zurn Putka, or standard of the empire, and usual honorary presents to Pursaram Bhow. His intention, however, is yet equivocal and the Bhow may be instructed to act either with or against the allies as circumstances may suit the Peshwa's treacherous policy, for I have undoubted information of his having dispatched four special messengers to the Mysore camp, since he learned the death of Tippoo, with letters to Futteh Hyder and other Sirdars, and that these messengers received secretly personal instructions from the Peshwa, and six months pay in advance from his privy purse.

If Futteh Hyder and the Mysore chiefs and troops should have entirely submitted, these messengers of the Peshwa will not make their appearance. Bajy Row's principal view in this duplicity of conduct is perhaps to secure to himself some advantage in any event of the war. But that his disposition is also favourable to the cause of the enemy, his actions and expressions too (if reports of the latter may be believed) leave no room to doubt; I am told, that he has declared the death of Tippoo to be the loss of his right arm. The Vakeels deputed to him by that Prince have not yet retired beyond Settarah, and the Peshwa is plainly determined not to relinquish his intercourse with them until he hears of the final subversion of the Mysore power.

The settlement of Sindia's administration and a reconciliation with the Bhyes, are still in suspense. The latter had made some progress towards Poona for the greater convenience of negotiating, but they have suddenly stopped and signified to Sindia, that as he appears to repose no confidence in his ministers, there can be no security for the performance of any engagements which they may conclude. Sindia is making further efforts to encourage those ladies to trust to his good intentions, but I do not know by what means he can effect it.

No. 261—The Governor General sends full instructions to the Resident how to deal with Bajirao in case he makes a requisition for a cession to him of a portion of the conquered territories.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort St. George, 23rd May 1799.

Sir,

My secret letter of the 14th of May will have apprized you, that the qualification by which you accompanied the declaration authorized

by my instructions of the 3rd April met with my approbation. You are perfectly correct in the reasoning stated in your letter of the 10th of May which I received yesterday, and which fully proves, that the Peshwa's conduct, since my declaration was signified to him, has been such as to forfeit every claim upon the faith or justice of the Company. I have, however, stated to you in my letter of the 14th of May my determination to allow the Peshwa a certain share in the division of the conquered territory, provided he shall conduct himself in a manner suitable to the nature of his own situation and of that of the allies, and shall not attempt to disturb the settlement which I shall deem most expedient of the affairs of Mysore. The Peshwa's sudden determination to take the field accompanied by the tacit acquiescence of Sindia and by the orders which you state to have been forwarded to Pursaram Bhow, appears to me very suspicious. It is possible, that before the 10th of May the Peshwa might have been apprized of the fall of Seringapatam; his own preparations, together with the orders to Pursaram Bhow, may have been intended to favor the seizure of Bednore or of some other part of the late Tippoo Sultaun's dominions, with the view of securing the dominions seized in defiance of the consent of the Company and of the Nizam. Such a proceeding could not be viewed with indifference by me and ultimately must prove injurious to the interests of the Peshwa by compelling the Company to renounce his alliance altogether and to recover by force of arms the territory so unjustly invaded.

I desire that you will take the most effectual measures in your power to discover the intentions of the Peshwa with respect to the treacherous designs which I apprehend him to have formed, and that you will employ such representations or other means as may appear to you most likely to prevent the execution of this design, if really entertained. You will apprise Lieut-General Harris at Seringapatam, and Lieut-General Stuart now occupying the late Sultaun's dominions on the coast of Malabar, any movement which you may apprehend from the Mahrattas towards the dominions of Tippoo Sultaun. It is superfluous to state to you that the whole kingdom of Mysore having fallen to the arms of the Company and the Nizam, is at present to be considered as a part of their dominions by right of conquest, and consequently any invasion of the kingdom of Mysore must be deemed, on the part of the Mahrattas, aggression against both the other members of the alliance. The Peshwa can derive no right to the conquered territories on the strength of the treaty of alliance, of which he has violated both the letter and the spirit. What he may eventually be permitted to draw from our recent communications will be due to the mere generosity and liberal policy of the British Government.

Although I have not yet completely arranged the particulars of the portion of territory which I propose to cede to the Peshwa, I would mention

to you generally, that I expect it will consist of the territories of Harponilly and a part of Rydroog, to this may possibly be added the territories of Bednore, but the extent of that addition must depend upon certain contingencies on which I am not at present prepared to give a decision. It will be the Peshwa's interest to await the quiet cession of the territories which he will acquire under any possible modification of the treaty of Mysore, rather than incur the hazard of provoking that power to antagonism, since he has been so recently given a signal instance of its vigor and efficiency

The Peshwa must be aware that the Nizam will not willingly consent to any partition of territory tending to enlarge the Mahratta dominion, and therefore the Peshwa should feel that he must rely on me exclusively for any such consideration and favour. Under such circumstances his wisest policy would be to be guided by your suggestions, and to make no attempt which can serve to confirm my late suspicions of his disaffection to the interests of the Company. Previously to the cession of any portion of territory to the Peshwa, I should wish to endeavour to accomplish the whole of the arrangement contained in my instructions to you of the 8th July 1798, and I desire to learn from you, without delay, whether a renewal of those propositions under the present circumstances of affairs would prove acceptable to the Court of Poona. On some parts of those propositions I shall absolutely insist, as indispensable preliminaries to the cession of territory to the Peshwa. The establishment of a subsidiary British force still appears to me to be a most desirable measure, although its importance has been much diminished by the reduction of Mysore.

But a complete adjustment, under my arbitration, of every point now at issue between the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad, as well as an engagement to abide by the arbitration of the Company on all future points of difference which may arise between those two Courts, the perpetual exclusion of the French from the territories and armies of the Peshwa, and a defensive alliance against any French invasion of India, must be made indispensable preliminaries of whatever cession of territory I may deem it expedient to make to the Peshwa.

This general outline of my views will enable you to take such steps as may tend to favour their success, and I shall hope to receive from you, as early as possible, such reflections as shall occur to you upon the suggestions contained in this letter.

The extreme heat of the season and other circumstances have induced me to postpone my intended journey to Serungputtam, but my brother and Lieutenant Colonel Kirkpatrick are now within a short distance of that city and are furnished with such instructions from me as may, I trust, accelerate the desirable object of a final settlement of Mysore.

I enclose copies of two French papers found in the palace of Tippoo Sultaun after the capture of Seringapatam. The originals are attested

by the Sultaun's Byze(?) in the usual form of abbreviated signature. You will communicate these papers to the Peshwa and to Nana, and you will not fail to enforce the arguments which arise from the evident design of the late Sultaun to employ the French arms for the purpose of recovering from the Mahrattahs and the Nizam, as well as from the Company, the territories ceded to each of them under the treaty of Seringapatam.

I also enclose copies of a paper found in the same place, on which perhaps you may be able to throw some light. You will be cautious not to betray to the Peshwa, or to any person who may be likely to hold intercourse with his ministers or Durbar, the slightest suspicion that any such document has been found at Seringaputtam.

No. 262—The Resident explains to the Governor General the nature of the attitude entertained by the Peshwa towards the British and the Nizam.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th June 1799.

My Lord,

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's secret letter of the 23rd ultimo. Uncertain whether my advices subsequent to my letter of the 10th ultimo may not have induced a change in your Lordship's determination to admit the Peshwa to some partition of the conquered territory in Mysore, I have judged it advisable to withhold the communication of them until a requisition from the Peshwa or his disposition to revive the negociations on your Lordship's propositions of the 8th of June, shall make it indispensable, and even then, I shall think it necessary to make the declaration with the reserve of no treacherous intercourse having taken place on the part of the Peshwa, either before or since the death of Tippoo Sultaun.

Your Lordship will have observed by my correspondence, that the Peshwa has not been in earnest in his declared intention to take the field in person. I am persuaded his view in publishing it was to defeat the proposal of the Minister to conduct the contingent, and at the same time, by the appearance of regard to his engagements in the triple alliance to preserve his claim to the eventual benefits of it; and as it is probable that in the same spirit, or with the view which your Lordship suspects, he will now actually detach a force to invade the province of Bednore, I have represented to him, that the war in Mysore being terminated

and the whole of its territory in possession of the allied forces, it will be entirely useless and may be prejudicial to send any troops from this State into the conquered dominions. To this representation the Peshwa answered, that Dhoondia Punt Gokla will have passed the Tungbuddra before orders to countermand his march can reach him, but that he shall be strongly enjoined to refrain from all hostilities, unless in conjunction with the Company's forces. I have replied that the Peshwa must be sensible of the inutility of mere injunction to restrain the ravages of Mahratta cavalry. I therefore hoped that he would recall his troops, as the only certain means of preventing injury to the country and disputes with the other allies. No answer is yet given to this second application.

In the hope of obtaining the information to answer your Lordship's enquiry whether a renewal of your propositions of the 8th of June, would at this time be acceptable to the Court of Poona, I sent Meer Fukir-ul-Dien to the Minister with Persian translations of the French copies of Tippoo Sultaun's letter and proposals to the executive Directory, and instructed him to take the opportunity of this pretext for a visit to enter into some general observations on the present state of the alliance, on the efforts which your Lordship and the Nizam had made to strengthen and perpetuate this alliance for mutual benefit and to support the authority of the Peshwa in the Marahatta empire, the neglect and indifference with which these efforts had been treated by Bajy Row, his total failure in his defensive engagements and his perseverance in an intercourse with the common enemy in violation of this faith and in contempt of your Lordship's repeated and urgent remonstrances. I further directed Fukir-ul-Deen to say to the Minister that, notwithstanding this unjustifiable conduct of the Peshwa, if he was now sincerely desirous of entering into the views of his allies, your Lordship would still be willing to afford that support to his authority, dignity and interests, which you had formerly held out to him.

Nana said that he lamented the transactions of this Court which had given your Lordship so much and just cause of complaint and offence. He had constantly advised the Peshwa to fulfil his engagements to his allies, and to secure his power and authority by a closer alliance with them. That he would now draw his attention to the situation in which his conduct has placed him and recommend to his serious consideration as the means of repairing his errors, a declaration of his resolution to adopt the original plan which your Lordship had submitted to him for the mutual security and interests of the Powers engaged in the triple defensive alliance. The Minister observed that if the suggestion of this measure should be made direct from me, the Peshwa would conclude from the renewal of the proposal that his alliance was thought indispensable, and hesitate in his answer until he could discover what advantage he might make of the allies; but if it should arise from a discussion of his

situation and prospects, natural in their present circumstances, he would entertain no suspicion and would, perhaps, deliver his genuine sentiments. Nana, however, has little expectation of the Peshwa's acceding to the propositions in their full extent, or that Sindia would permit it, if Bajy Row should be so inclined. This expected opposition from Sindia is, I imagine, to a subsidiary force; and the Peshwa is more likely to yield to it, as the pretext of employing it against Tippoo no longer exists.

The introduction of these subjects by the Minister will probably lead to a disclosure of the Peshwa's views and intentions, and encourage me to make a communication of your Lordship's conditional determination, respecting his interests, in the division of conquest in Mysore. But I shall previously require his compliance with my requisition for the recall of his troops, and signify to him that his refusal will rather defeat, than secure any object which he may have in their passing the Tungbudra. I am, however, doubtful of Dhondia Punt Ghokla having advanced towards the frontier, as by the latest accounts which I have received of him, he was occupied in ravaging the dominions of the Nazim. It is certain that Pursaram Bhow has not advanced, nor is it very probable that he will.

The weak and degraded state of the Peshwa's authority, the distress of his Government, the dissatisfaction of his allies of which he now begins to apprehend the consequences, and his consciousness of having forfeited all claim to share in the advantages of the alliance, are circumstances which induce me to entertain some expectation of his renewing a negotiation from which alone he has any solid prospect of extricating himself from the difficulties and dangers which surround him, and of recovering his situation with his allies. He sees the obstacles which the nature of the Nizam's new engagements with the Company oppose to his designs on His Highness's revenue or territory, and may now feel the necessity of submitting his pretensions to your Lordship's arbitration. But Bajy Row is so much more governed by his professions and his prejudices than by his interests, that I shall not be surprised at his ultimately sacrificing the latter to the former.

I have not yet learned what impression has been made upon him by the correspondence of Tippoo Suldaun with the French Directory. It must, I think, give him some apprehension of the discovery of his own, if he has carried it on by writing, but he has probably avoided any confidential communication in that mode.

I have no doubt of the authenticity of Tippoo's letter to the Peshwa. It was never denied by the latter that he received letters from the Sultan and they were likely to be of the nature and tendency of that dishonest dealing of which he is a master; to the liberal offers of money which it holds out, may, perhaps, be ascribed the real motive of the Peshwa's faithless conduct towards his allies.

The Peshwa has invited me to an entertainment made on purpose for me on whatever day I may fix, although I cannot doubt of the motive to this unusual politeness being interested I have not declined the compliment.

The Bhyes of Sindia's family have at length consented to receive a deputation from that chief, to treat of a reconciliation Baboo Row Angria, Balloo Tautia, Abba Chitnavees and Colonel Hensing, are to set out in a day or two, fully empowered to conclude a final accommodation with these ladies and their adherents

I do not find that any progress has been made in the proposed coalition between the two Durbars. The mutual jealousy, distrust and opposition of interests of the two great chieftains and their respective Ministers will probably for ever prevent any union of councils or force, which can render them formidable to their neighbours, or even secure the safety of their own dominions

Having represented to Sindia that the depredations committed by his regular troops in the territory of His Highness the Nazim, was an infraction of his promise to refrain from hostilities and to refer his claim to negotiation, he disavowed any knowledge of the proceedings complained of, and immediately dispatched orders to prevent a repetition of them

I have advised Generals Harris and Stuart of the Peshwa's having directed a force to enter the province of Bednore, although I expect that it will be countermanded in consequence of my representations

No. 263—The Governor General informs the Peshwa that on the death of Tipu all hostilities have ceased.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE PESHWA.

Written 27th May 1799.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that by my latest accounts from Mysore, I find that the whole of Tippoo Sultaun's army is dispersed, that all hostility has entirely ceased, and that perfect tranquillity pervades that country. Under these circumstances it is unnecessary for you to proceed with your preparations for the field; any movement of your troops towards Mysore at this time would be productive only of evil by exciting alarm and suspicion in the minds of the inhabitants, and would prevent the continuance of that tranquillity, which has taken place. I therefore request that if

the force under Pursaram Bhow or any other has marched that way, that you will immediately recall it. I have already communicated to you my intention of proceeding to Seringapatam for the purpose of forming a general arrangement, of which I shall have the honour to give you due information and which I hope, will prove satisfactory to you.

No. 264—The Governor General instructs the Resident at Hyderabad to watch the effects of the recent conquest on the Court of Hyderabad and not to encourage in it high hopes of advantages from it.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Fort St. George, 23rd May 1799.

Sir,

You will have learnt from Lieut.-General Harris that a contingent reinforced by a Regiment of Native Cavalry, and by European Infantry, is on its march towards His Highness's frontier.

It is possible that the approach of a Regiment of Europeans might excite jealousy in the mind of His Highness the Nizam and of his Court. If you should apprehend any such effect, I authorize you to stop the advance of the European Regiment in question, directing by my authority the officer in command of the contingent to signify, by express, my order for the stopping the advance of the Regiment to the Commander-in-Chief at Surungputtun, and in the meanwhile to station the Regiment in such a position as shall appear most advantageous for the health and safety of the troops. You will also direct the commanding officer of the contingent to apprise me, by express, of the station at which he shall have posted the European Regiment in question.

I refer you to my letter of this date to Colonel Palmer for the view of several important points of discussion likely to arise with the Court of Poona in consequence of the reduction of Mysore.

I am impatient to receive your answer to my letters of the 16th and 17th of May. I trust that the Nizam may be induced to accede to the wishes of Kummer-ud-Dien. I am apprehensive that the extraordinary tide of success which attends us in Mysore may so elate Azim-ul-Omrah as to raise the pretensions of his Court beyond all bounds of discretion. I rely on you to correct every appearance of such a disposition, as well as every symptom of inclination to hostilities against Sindia or the

Peshwa My wish is that the whole arrangement of our conquest should be left implicitly to the Company's Government But I should be glad to be furnished with a general outline of the views and pretensions of the Nizam which, he may be assured, will form an anxious object of my attention in framing any new distribution of territory or power

I enclose copies of the French papers to which I have referred in my letter to Colonel Palmer of this date You will communicate them to the Nizam and Azim-ul-Omrah with such comments as their contents naturally suggest You will be cautious to conceal your knowledge of the discovery of any papers of a nature similar to that which forms No 3 in the enclosures of the dispatch to Colonel Palmer of this date

I have received a letter from my brother at Ryakotah dated the 21st instant announcing his arrival, and that of Lieutenant-Colonel Kirkpatrick, at that fortress in the morning of that day The last letters from Seringapatam are of the 14th instant. Futtah Hyder and Purneah had surrendered to General Harris and were then in the fort.

You will perceive by my letter to Colonel Palmer that circumstances have induced me to postpone my journey to Seringapatam

No. 265—The Resident reports to the G G how the Peshwa was realizing his folly in having abstained from taking part in the war against Tipu Sultan

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 10th June 1799.

My Lord,

Since my address of the 7th instant, Nana Furnavees sent for Meer Fikir-ul-Deen and informed him that in consequence of my representation, the Peshwa had ordered the recall of the force which he had directed to advance beyond the Tungbudra Your Lordship's requisition to this effect arrived after I had received this communication. But I thought it advisable to present your letter to the Peshwa as it would confirm his resolution in case he should have been wavering, and as it might probably encourage him to such declarations or enquiries as would lead to an introduction of the important points of your Lordship's commands to me of the 23rd ultimo In this expectation, I presented the Khareetah to the Peshwa and Minister a few hours after I received

them at the entertainment, made for me and the gentlemen attached to the Residency by the Peshwa on the 8th. Finding, however, that the letters would not be opened in my presence, and the Minister having previously told Meer Fakiruddin he had been deterred, by the apprehension of the Peshwa's representing him to Sindia as desirous of introducing a British Force into the Empire, from making suggestions tending to a reconsideration of your Lordship's former propositions; I found it necessary, in order to obtain, if possible, some intimation of the Peshwa's disposition to recur to them, to remark on desiring an answer to your Lordship's letter, the constant attention which you had manifested to him as a member of the triple alliance, and the sincere proofs which you had afforded him for concern for his rights and authority, and for the prosperity of the Mahratta Empire. But that the most disinterested offers of essential services, I was obliged to observe, had been received by His Highness with indifference, neglect and suspicion.

The Peshwa appeared to comprehend the object of these insinuations as he professed himself fully sensible of your Lordship's friendly views for his authority and interests, as contained in the plan of alliance which you had so early formed in consequence of his own solicitation for aid and a ded, that he should now come to some determination, of which I should be informed.

I conclude from these last words that the Peishwa has seriously reflected on the situation into which he has brought himself, by the failure in his defensive engagements, and by neglecting to place himself in the same advantageous relation to the Company which the Nizam has obtained. I am informed that he is deliberating on these subjects, and that I may expect to receive some propositions from him in the course of a day or two. To accelerate his resolutions, I have informed him of the surrender of Futteh Hyder and Poorneah, and should his communications to me be delayed beyond two days, I shall require to know his views and intentions respecting the present state of his alliance, and the principles upon which he desires its continuance.

The advantages to the Peshwa of the treaty proposed by your Lordship and the danger of separating his interests from those of the other allies, are now so manifest that I think he cannot any longer hesitate to adopt your proposals, unless his fear of the immediate power of Sindia should supersede every other consideration and this fear I should hope to remove, by assurances of your Lordship's protection against any member of this state, who shall presume to oppress him for the purpose of defeating any engagements between him and the Company, and I have little doubt that my remonstrances would deter Sindia from such an attempt.

Sindia's deputies proceeded on the 8th to meet the Bhyes at the distance of about 30 coss from Poona.

SECTION 4

Subsidiary alliance rejected by Bajirao (June—December 1799)

No. 266—The Resident communicates the inclination of the Peshwa to enter into a secret alliance with the Company against Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th June 1799.

My Lord,

Nana Furnavees sent for Fukur-ul-Deen early this morning, and told him, that as I had intimated at my last visit to the Peshwa your Lordship's unaltered disposition to maintain and improve the alliance between the Company and this State, the Peshwa wished to know on what mutual stipulations your Lordship proposed to effect this object, and that he was ready to enter upon the discussion of it. The Minister added strong professions of his own sincere desire to engage the Peshwa in all your Lordship's views for the reciprocal security and advantage of the two States, and if he might now rely on the Peshwa's solemn assurances of entering seriously into the proposed discussion of new and permanent engagements with the Company, he hoped to be materially instrumental

in promoting them. He observed that the conduct of the intended negotiation required the greatest secrecy, and the Peshwa had resolved that no person on his part should be admitted to the conferences, but Emrut Rhow, the Minister and Narroe Punt Chukerdeo. This precaution, I understand, alludes to Sindia.

Meer Fukir-ul-Deen could only answer that he would immediately communicate the Peshwa's wishes to me, and return with such instructions as I might give him.

I shall without the smallest delay send Fukir-ul-Dien to the Minister with the detail of your Lordship's propositions and furnish him with such arguments in support of them, as may answer any difficulties or objections likely to be started by Nana. I hope to give your Lordship very early information of some successful progress in this important negotiation. But I shall not think myself authorised to conclude it until I receive your express directions for that purpose.

No. 267—The Resident informs the Governor General of the progress of the negotiations for the subsidiary alliance proposed to the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 14th June 1799.

My Lord,

I sent Meer Fukir-ul-Dein to Nana Furnavees on the 11th with the heads of the propositions in writing contained in your Lordship's instructions of the 8th of July last, and the additional stipulation of defensive engagement against any invasion of India by the French.

The Minister made no observation, except on the last article, which he considered as calculated for the exclusive advantage of the Company, and thought that the Peshwa would be entitled to some recompense for engaging in it.

Fukir-ul-Dein answered, that the Peshwa's dominions would be in more danger from a French force invading India, than those of the Company; as the latter were too powerful to be attacked before the enemy should have secured some footing and resources in the country, and he would probably commence his operations for these purposes against the Mahratta possessions as accessible by sea. Nana did not reply to these remarks, but said he would immediately lay the propositions before the Peshwa.

Although I am of opinion that the Peshwa will ultimately accede to your Lordship's proposals, I expect, that he will require some modification of the two important stipulations of subsidiary force and the Company's arbitration between him and the Nazim, as they stand in the treaty of

Hyderabad On the first, it is very probable he will demand that, it shall be expressly optional with him to dismiss it whenever he shall judge proper, and on the arbitration, he will require that it shall not preclude any amicable negotiation between the two Durbars for the accommodation of their differences in the first instance

Both these requisitions appear to me perfectly consistent with the principles on which your Lordship proposed to assist your allies with military force and friendly mediation But I shall not make any conclusive declaration upon them until I receive your Lordship's commands

As no more than two or three persons of the French nation are in the Peshwa's service, and these have only nominal employment with stipends for their subsistence, I expect that he will, on motives of compassion to their families, be very solicitous of your Lordship's indulgence to retain them under any precautions and restrictions which you may think proper to prescribe. But I shall of course refer to your Lordship any application of this nature

The Peshwa is, as I am informed, exceedingly apprehensive that Sindia will show the most violent resentment at the check which will be given to his usurpations, by the proposed new engagements with the Company. But I am persuaded that my assurances to Sindia, of the inoffensive nature of the treaty relating to his just rights and authority, and my representation of the impression which would be made upon your Lordship's mind of his views and principles if he should on any pretence oppress the Peshwa, while an alliance between him and the Company for the mutual and lasting security of their possession is depending, will effectually prevent the consequences which the Peshwa apprehends It is however proposed to guard the objects of the negotiation with the utmost care from the knowledge of Sindia, and there is, I believe, no danger of a disclosure except from the Peshwa himself, nor do I perceive any interest which he can have in acting with such duplicity But the Peshwa's actions are not always regulated by his interests, even when he understands them If he has any other motive for betraying the secrets of the intended negotiation, it is probably that of ruining Nana by exposing him to the vengeance of Sindia But neither his professions of unlimited confidence in, and unalterable attachment to the Minister, nor his own actual situation, warrant such a suspicion.

Should the proposal for the Peshwa's defensive engagement against the French, be treated in the course of the negotiation as an aid solely for the service of the Company, and for which this State will be entitled to some equivalent, it may be urged, that the admission of the Peshwa to share in the conquest of Mysore, after his having thrown the whole burthen of the war on his allies, is more than equivalent to the engagement required, admitting that he was not equally interested in the object of it, as he demonstratively is.

Considering the weakness and indecision of the Peshwa and the caution and procrastination with which the measures of this Court are usually conducted, it is not probable that the impending negotiation will be much advanced before I can receive your Lordship's instructions for bringing it to a conclusion, and as it is not certain that circumstances may not have occurred to induce a change in your sentiments and views respecting this State, since your commands to me of the 23rd ultimo, I shall carefully keep the negotiation in such state as will admit of your Lordship's renouncing it, without furnishing any cause of complaint to the Peshwa.

No. 268—The Resident suggests some observations for the consideration of the Governor General in connection with the terms of the proposed alliance.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17th June 1799.

My Lord,

Yesterday Meer Fukir-ul-Deen brought to me the propositions which he received the preceding night from the Minister, in answer to the stipulations which I had submitted to the Peshwa as the basis on which your Lordship would be inclined to form a new treaty for extending and strengthening the alliance of the Company with this State, on the same principles and in the same views as that which had been concluded with His Highness the Nizam.

I have not yet returned an answer to these propositions wishing to know whether the Peshwa prefers to discuss them by conference or correspondence; I am fully prepared to meet his objections to a complete acquiescence in your Lordship's proposals and views, to whichever government such objections may apply, and to refute such of his claims, pretensions and views, as are unjust or unreasonable. I shall transmit to your Lordship the details of the progress of the negotiation in whatever form it proceeds, for the present only suggesting a few observations on two points of the Peshwa's proposals, which seem to require your Lordship's express instructions.

The services of the Company's troops in coercing the independent Rajas who are tributaries to this state as the Peshwa requires, would, I conceive, be contrary to your Lordship's intentions in the aid preferred to him, which I consider as restricted to the protection of his person, authority, and Dominions from sedition or invasion, and not to be employed in foreign enterprizes but for the common interests of the allies.

The other point to which I allude, is the provision in the third article for removing any obstruction or opposition to the expulsion of the French, which I understand to have reference to the subjects of that nation in Sindia's Service whose dismissal the Peshwa means to insist, and to enforce it, if he can obtain your Lordship's support. As Head of the Empire, he possesses undoubted authority in this case over every inferior member of it, and the advantage will be obvious to your Lordship of encouraging a separation of interests between these Chieftains under the aggression of one of them towards the Company.

I enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of my letter of this date to the Resident at Hyderabad. Sindia seems disposed to maintain peace with the Nazim, if it can be done without relinquishing his claim to the balance of His Highness's obligation for 50 lacs of rupees, and it is of a nature which at least entitles it to discussion.

No. 269—Propositions received from Nana Fadnis.

Translate of propositions from the Peshwa for a new treaty of defensive alliance and subsidy between the Hon'ble Company and the Mahratta State delivered by the Minister Nana Furnavees to Meer Fikir-ul-Deen, the Resident's Moonshy, on the 16th June 1799.

Article 1st.—The Peshwa proposes to receive into his immediate pay two Battalions of the Company's native infantry, reserving the option of an augmentation of four Battalions whenever he shall require it. These troops the Peshwa shall be at liberty to employ in either foreign or domestic services, that is to say, in support of his authority and in assisting to levy contributions on the tributary zemindars of this Empire. In consideration of the known distresses of this State, the rate of subsidy to be the same as that fixed for the Company's troops in the Peshwa's pay during the late war, or if this cannot be admitted, not to exceed an increase of one-fourth.

Article 2nd.—Friendship having been long established between His Highness the Nizam and this Government, and mutual accommodation being practised, the treaties and intercourse subsisting should be maintained. Henceforth, if any important differences should arise which the two states cannot agree in adjusting, let the Company, mindful of justice and established usage, bring the parties to a right understanding.

Article 3rd.—No person of the French nation shall henceforth be entertained in the service of this state, and those who are now in it, shall be dismissed and expelled the country. If any obstruction should be given to the execution of this stipulation, the two Governments will concert the means of removing it.

Article 4th.—If this State should engage to unite with the Company in opposing any future attempt of the French to invade India, how is it to be indemnified for its expenses?

Article 5th.—An equal partition with the other allies of conquest made on the dominions of the late Tippoo Sultaun to be allotted to this State, since it has not failed in its engagements, although its embarrassments have occasioned delay. Cessions of country and immunities have been granted to Sirdars to induce them to proceed against the enemy, and their forces were ordered to march. By the favour of Divine Providence the war is at an end, otherwise the troops of this State would have co-operated in it. Let it be remembered how critically Hurry Pundit joined Lord Cornwallis in the late war, and the commendations which his Lordship bestowed on the conduct of that officer, while the troops of the Nazim shrunk from the service and quitted the field in numbers to such a degree that His Lordship would have dismissed them as unserviceable, but for the intercession of Hurry Pundit, with whom Taije-Wunt and his troops were permitted to remain, and His Highness thereby obtained an equal share of the acquisitions of the war.

No. 270—The Resident informs the G. G. that the Peshwa was not very enthusiastic about negotiating the subsidiary alliance.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 21st June 1799.

My Lord,

The Peshwa having desired that the objects of the impending negotiation may be discussed by conference with Nanna Furnavees, my first visit to the Minister for that purpose was to have been made yesterday. But astrologers having pronounced it to be an inauspicious day I am to wait on Nana this morning.

I believe it is wished by the Peshwa and Minister to close the negotiation here without reference to your Lordship, except for ratification, after the stipulations shall be reduced into the form of a treaty. If this point should be pressed upon me I shall declare my readiness to accede to it if the Peshwa accepts all your Lordship's propositions without reserve, but that the smallest alteration required in any of them will make a reference indispensable.

I do not, however, expect such unqualified acquiescence in the Peshwa; I apprehend, that no considerations of remote and adventitious advantages, however great, will subdue his reluctance to the immediate and constant expense of maintaining a subsidiary force equal to that of the Company's

troops in the pay of the Nazim, although it is not very unlikely that he may be induced, by the desire of extricating himself from the ascendancy of Sindia, to a temporary engagement of a force of equal extent.

I shall omit no arguments or reasoning, of which your Lordship's propositions appear to me susceptible, to engage the Peshwa unreservedly in your views for his particular security and prosperity, as well as for the general interests of the triple alliance.*

No. 271—The Resident reports his conference with Nana on the proposed subsidiary alliance between the Company and the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 24th June 1799.

My Lord,

I had an interview with the Minister on the evening of the 21st. I first assured him that your Lordship continued in the same disposition to cultivate and improve the alliance between the Company and this State, and to promote the authority and welfare of the Peshwa, and with the same views towards the general interests and security of the allied Powers, as had influenced your original proposals for the attainment of these objects, and which had been so often explained and recommended to this Court. I then proceeded to answer, in order, the propositions of the Peshwa delivered to me on the 16th on those points in which they differ from your Lordship's stipulations, or have an opposite tendency to the principles and views under which your Lordship is desirous of reviving the negotiation.

I observed on the first proposition from the Peshwa to subsidize only two Battalions of the Company's troops, that this force would appear inadequate to the great object proposed by your Lordship of enabling this State to fulfil its defensive engagements in any future emergency by giving permanent support to the Peshwa's authority, and effectual protection to his dominions from all intestine commotion or foreign attack, and I requested of the Minister to call the Peshwa's attention to the happy effects of the Nazim's early provision of an efficient force for these purposes. The requisition for the services of our troops in levying tribute or contribution on any independent principality could not (I told the minister) be complied with consistently with the principles, or dignity of the British Government. But I observed, that as the Peshwa's internal tranquillity would be secured by the presence of the Company's troops he

*Here follows Lord Mornington's letter addressed to Col Palmer. It is printed by Martin. at p 51, Vol II

it make a proportionate augmentation of his own force, for the service question. Any diminution in the rate of subsidy from that paid by Nazim, was inadmissible, and I had no doubt, but the Peshwa would sur in the justice and propriety of your Lordship's rejecting this proposal as applicable both to the Company and His Highness.

There is no substantial difference appears to me, between your Lordship's proposal and that of the Peshwa, for arbitrating the dispute between the Courts, the Peshwa apparently only desiring the option of settling them amicably without arbitration if that can be done, I only remarked to the Minister that your Lordship, on motives of friendship to the parties as well as of policy, would be anxious for as early an settlement of all existing claims and contests as the nature of them would admit, and this was most likely to be accomplished by the investigations of a mutual friend on whose equity and discernment they may rely for a fair and satisfactory decision.

The Peshwa's proposition respecting the French I approved of in principle.

I observed to the Minister, that an engagement to oppose the invasion of any part of India by the French would be reciprocal, and that this State was likely to be the first which would reap the benefit of it, as both the strength and weakness of its possessions on the Coast would point them out as the places of most easy descent. But that it was highly improbable that further hostile enterprizes in India would be undertaken by the French nation.

The Minister expressed much concern at being obliged to deny the Peshwa's allegation of not having failed in his engagements to his allies. He had failed not only totally, but to all appearance wilfully and designedly failed in them, even if he had now engaged Pursaram Bhow or Dhoondia Punt Gokla to proceed with their forces against Bednore, it is to be presumed that he might have engaged either of those chiefs on that service, when he was required to refurnish his contingent, instead of delaying the measure until he was assured that the arms of his allies would soon subvert the dominion of Tippoo. I reminded the Minister of the procrastinated execution of Tippoo's Vakeels under the most frivolous pretexts and excuses, notwithstanding Your Lordship's repeated and forcible representations of the injurious consequences of this proceeding to the disadvantage of the allies and its deviation from the spirit and faith of the Peshwa's engagements. I also reminded Nana of the neglect which had been shown to the Bombay Detachment though furnished at the Peshwa's requisition, and asked him whether, under these aggravated circumstances, failure in violation of engagements, the Peshwa could seriously suppose himself entitled to the smallest partition in the conquest of Mysore.

The Minister made no reply to my answers and arguments on the above positions; he only said that he would report then circumstantially to

the Peshwa, and inform me of his resolutions. But he was very earnest in endeavouring to extenuate the conduct of this Court in its failure in engagements and intercourse with Tippoo, making the strongest protestations of the first having proceeded from inability, and of the last being perfectly inoffensive to the allies. He said that the Peshwa had entire reliance on your Lordship's disinterested views in the proposed engagements between the three States, and was sensible of the benefits which he might derive from adopting the stipulations which more immediately affected him, though his present circumstances might not admit of his engaging in them to their fullest extent.

I was induced by these professions of the Minister to request of him to recommend in the most earnest manner to the Peshwa, that he would commit his interests, his security and his dignity, in the objects under consideration, to your Lordship's superintendence, and I would assure him that he would have no cause to repent of his confidence. The Minister promised to comply with this request.

I learn that Nana has reported the conference to the Peshwa, but I have not received any notice in consequence. I am inclined to believe that the proposed treaty will be accepted, with some immaterial variation.

No. 272—The Resident forwards a list of districts in the dominion of Tipu Sultan selected by the Peshwa to form his portion of the division in the conquered country.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE PERSIAN TRANSLATOR.

Poona, 24th June 1799.

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive the printed copies of the late Tippoo Sultaun's correspondence with the French Government, together with your Persian translation of three letters therefrom, these last I have communicated to the Peshwa.

I transmit herewith for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General, a list delivered to me by the Peshwa in the Mahratta language with a Persian translation of districts and mahals in the dominions of the late Sultaun, which the Peshwa has selected to form his portion of the division of the conquered territory amongst the allies. Another list with which the Peshwa was to have furnished at the same time, of places conquered from this State by Tippoo and retained at his death, cannot be obtained from the Daftar in time for this dispatch.

I likewise forward herewith a duplicate of my letter to His Lordship the Governor General of the 24th instant, and Persian news-papers received from the camp of Lucawa Dada.

No. 273—The Resident informs the G. G. of his Munshi's interviews with Nana Fadnis and the Sindia. The former pleaded the usual excuses for the Peshwa's not participating in the war. The Sindia asked British mediation for the settlement of his troubles.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

Poona, 29th June 1799.

My Lord,

I have been honoured with your Lordship's commands marked secret of the 12th instant. I communicated without delay to the Peshwa and Sindia your assurances respecting the movement of General Harris' army, in which both expressed entire confidence and satisfaction.

I have also informed the Minister, through Meer Fukir-ul-Deen, of your Lordship's intention to make a considerable cession to the Peshwa of conquered territory in Mysore, provided his conduct hitherto shall not have been such as to preclude you from all consideration of his interests, notwithstanding his having totally failed in his engagement and acted in opposition to the spirit of them.

Nana Furnavees, after suitable acknowledgments for your Lordship's liberal intentions and friendly disposition towards this State, entered into an extenuation of the circumstances which had caused the disappointment and dissatisfaction of the allies, which was substantially what has been so often urged, the distractions of the empire, the usage of the native courts to admit vakeels between states at war, and the inoffensive nature of the intercourse which this Court held with the Vakeels of Tippoo Sultaun. He professed the sincere intentions to have co-operated in the war, and affirmed that if it had continued, the Peshwa's contingent would by this time have been in the enemy's country. The Minister added, that he hoped your Lordship, in consideration of these circumstances, and of the Peshwa's desire to afford you the most convincing proof of his entire confidence and attachment by entering into your views for the improvement of the triple alliance, would admit him to an equal share of the conquered territory in Mysore.

Moonshy Fukir-ul-Deen could only answer to this discourse that he would report it to me, and having required of the Minister, the names and descriptions of such districts or places as had been conquered from this State by the late Tippoo Sultaun and remained in his possession at his

death, and also desired to know, what districts of the Sultaun's dominions would be most acceptable to the Paishwa, Nana said, that he would send Moonshy Gopal Row to me with the necessary information, and to make some communications from the Paishwa on the depending negotiations.

I have waited three days in expectation of Gopal Rhow's visit, at which I hoped to receive some decided and interesting communication for your Lordship's information. But he has postponed his appearance from day to day I regret that the Paishwa has yielded to his entreaties to be employed in this negotiation.

The absence of Sindia's principal ministers on a deputation to the Bhyes, necessarily postponed any attempt on my part to discover whether your Lordship's object of obtaining the dismissal of the French Officers in the service of that Chief, may be attained by negotiating his interests in the settlement of Mysore. This impediment, however, has been in some degree removed by an advance made to me from Dhoondiah, a near relation of Balloo Tautia, through Gunput Rao, to engage Sindia in the general interests and security of the Company and its allies, if your Lordship is disposed to support the administration and influence of Tautia, by affording your guarantee to such engagements as he may conclude, on the part of Sindia, with the Peshwa and with the Bhyes for the accommodation of all differences and by a loan of ten or fifteen lacs of rupees. Gunput Rao said that if I thought these propositions of a nature to be submitted to your Lordship, Bhow Buckshy would wait upon me to define the engagements which Tautia has in view, and to give a formal sanction to the propositions

I confined my answer to desiring of Gunput Row to encourage Dhoondiah in a reliance on your Lordship's friendly scrutiny towards Sindia, and in your disposition to connect his Government with the general welfare and tranquillity, and to expect my decided opinion on his proposal after I should precisely understand their purport from Bhow Buckshy.

I learned from Gunput Row that Tautia's object in soliciting a loan is not that of supply, of which he does not stand in need, but to obtain an ostensible mark of your Lordship's favour and protection, which will strengthen his authority and secure the execution of his measures

If your Lordship entertains no other view in proposing to make some provision for Sindia's interests in Mysore than to obtain the expulsion of the French from his service, I am of opinion that this object may be obtained by acceding to Tautia's last proposal, or by (almost) any other mode of showing countenance to his administration. He is the avowed enemy of Mr. Perron who, I understand, wishes to retire in consequence of Tautia's return to power. Mr. Duprat commanding the second brigade also intends to resign. These officers have respectively recommended Mr. Sutherland or Mr. Brownrigg, British subjects, to be their

successors in preference to Mr. Dugeon, a Frenchman, who is a competitor. The few other persons of that nation in Sindia's service are of little note or estimation, and would probably be abandoned by Sindia himself without much reluctance.

The conferences between the Bhyes and Sindia's ambassadors are hitherto of an opinion rather unfavourable to conciliation. It is however generally supposed that an accommodation will take place as answering the immediate purposes of both parties, with little prospect of its being permanent.

Since writing the above Munshi Gopal Rao has been with me to state the Peshwa's replies to my observations on his propositions and to introduce some additional subjects for your Lordship's consideration.

On his proposal to subsidise only two battalions, he remarks that the Nizam entertained no greater force of the Company's troops in his pay until the exigency of his own affairs required an augmentation. In like manner he will avail himself of your Lordship's aid whenever the interests of his Government or the common cause of the allies shall make it expedient. The services of this force he still hopes, may be employed against refractory tributaries, but that if that cannot be permitted, he shall expect your Lordship's consent to its assistance in the reduction of the island of Junjerah. He wishes the detachment which he may immediately require, should be of the same strength as that formerly in his pay, and in consideration of the increase of officers and staff in our corps, he will fix the subsidy at the round sum of 25,000 rupees per month for each battalion. He proposes to assign and in Jaidad for the secure discharge of the subsidy.

The Peshwa wishes the proposition for the Company's arbitration in all subsisting and future differences between him and the Nizam to retain the expression which he had given to it, but he admitted the fair construction and meaning to be, that the arbitrator will have a right to interfere and compel the parties to submit to his arbitration, when they cannot agree between themselves.

To the proposed defensive alliance against a French invasion of India, the Peshwa is perfectly well disposed, his only objection is the heavy expense which he should incur, if he was required to aid the Company in Bengal or the Carnatic. He would engage to co-operate in Mysore, or on the Malabar Coast. But should his assistance be demanded at a greater distance, his troops must be subsisted at the Company's expense. And if he should require the aid of the Company's troops from an equal distance, he will pay the expense of such aid, but if his requisition can be complied with at Bombay he demanded, that it shall be gratuitous to the extent of four additional battalions of Native infantry (as now tendered to him), but for any further aid which he may require, he is to be chargeable with the expense.

The Moonshy made no mention of the Paishwa's wishes respecting his portion of the conquered territory, either as to choice or extent. But these, I suppose, are included in the list which he brought, and of which I transmit a copy to the Persian Translator. I also forward, for your Lordship's information, a list of places conquered from this State by the late Tippoo Sultaun, and remaining in his possession at his death, but Gopal Rhow does not pretend that any claim to the recovery of them rests with this State. They were all virtually relinquished to the Sultaun by the Treaty of Surungputtum

I endeavoured, by a recapitulation of all your Lordship's motives and objects in proposing to strengthen your alliance with the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad, to convince the Moonshy of his Master's mistaking his true and lasting interests, in not accepting your Lordship's propositions in their fullest extent, and intimated to him that your consideration of him in the advantages acquired in Mysore, could be founded on his disposition to unite cordially with his allies in their present views for the general good, and would be in proportion to the confidence which he should repose in your Lordship and the Nazim.

I told the Moonshy, that as some of the propositions from the Paishwa varied from those tendered by your Lordship, and new matter was introduced, I must submit them to your determination, that I had repeatedly and unreservedly given my own sentiments on the essential points of difference in extent of subsidy, the Company's arbitration between the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad, and the alliance against French invasion, conformably to your Lordship's motives and views in your original propositions. It was not, however, improbable, I said that a change in the situation of the allies might induce you to accommodate the Paishwa in some of those points; but any variation in the rate of subsidy from that paid by the Nazim, and the assistance of our troops in the reduction of Gingera, were points which, in my opinion, your Lordship would deem inadmissible.

The Island of Gingera was ceded to the Paishwa some years ago by the legal proprietor Balloo Meah for an equivalent in Jagheer, under the guarantee of the Company. It was then, as it is still, in the possession of another branch of the family, who had expelled Balloo Meah. The Paishwa was to obtain possession of it as he could. He invested it during the space of three years by an army of 20,000 men unsuccessfully. He has no claim to the Company's aid in reducing it, and as it is a place of great strength the assistance of the force which he is willing to subsidize would be unavailing.

The condition proposed by the Paishwa, that the requiring party shall bear the expenses of the troops required from its allies in the case of

a French invasion, appears equitable, and is in my opinion rather advantageous to the Company, both as it is improbable that its dominions will be the first attacked, and because little reliance can be placed on the assistance of this State, unless it is paid for against an enemy who has nothing to lose.

While these subjects are under reference to your Lordship, I shall not discontinue my efforts to prevail on the Paishwa to admit them unreservedly.

No. 274—The Resident forwards to the Governor General the propositions received by him from the Peshwa on the subject of the subsidiary alliance which the latter was negotiating with the Company's Government. He also makes his own comments on the terms for the Governor General's considerations.

FROM—COLONEL PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 2nd July 1799.

My Lord,

I have the honour to enclose for your information, a translation of some propositions which I have received from the Peshwa, since my conversation with Moonshy Gopal Row detailed in my last address. These vary in some points from those delivered by that Moonshy and are entirely new in others.

That these propositions may be submitted to your Lordship's consideration in the most obvious and connected form, I have subjoined to them respectively my answers and observations.

I do not think that the Paishwa will inflexibly adhere to his requisitions, if the objections which I have stated to them should be confirmed by your Lordship. And as you consider the acceptance of subsidiary force by the Paishwa to the extent proffered as an object rather desirable than indispensable, I have therefore the best hopes that such a treaty may be concluded with this Court as will secure all the great objects of your original plan of alliance with it.

No further communication has been made to me concerning the proposals brought to me by Gunput Roy from Dhoondiah.

I do not learn the exact state of the negotiations between the Bhyes and Sindia's Commissioners. But it does not appear that any progress is made towards accommodation. The Bhyes hitherto decline to accept of the guarantee of Sindia's ministers, who, as they observe, are unable to protect themselves from his violence and injustice.

Propositions received from
the Paishwa on the
1st July 1799

Answers and observations

Article 1st—The Paishwa wishes to assign a competent district either in the Deccan, or Hindostan, to be Jaidaad, as the most certain provision which he can make for the regular discharge of the subsidy.

Observation 1st.—The Paishwa has already been apprized that the Governor General on principles of moderation and regard to the independence of the State is wholly averse to accepting any assignment of territory. It cannot be difficult to discharge the subsidy by instalments

Article 2nd—The Company shall investigate and decide, on all differences which now subsist or may hereafter arise, between this Government and that of His Highness the Nazim, whenever the contending parties cannot agree upon an amicable adjustment between themselves.

Observation 2nd.—The stipulation appears to be perfectly conformable to His Lordship's intentions in proposing his arbitration, he can have no desire to interpose, when the parties agree between themselves

Article 3rd—If any Power, either foreign or domestic, shall attempt to subvert the authority of Bajy Rao, the Company shall furnish him with a force to maintain him in it

Observation 3rd—To protect the Paishwa's rights and dominions is the principal object of the tender of a subsidiary force. But as the alliance will be of a defensive nature, the Company cannot assist the Paishwa in any war either within, or without his dominions, in which he may be the aggressor.

Article 4th—On whatever services the Paishwa may have occasion to employ the Company's troops in his pay, the Commanding Officer shall have no interference with the object of it, but be entirely subject to the Paishwa's authority and instructions.

Observation 4th—The Commanding Officer of the Company's troops, subsidized by the Paishwa, will interfere only to judge of the practicability of the service which he is required to perform, and to regulate his own operations for effecting it.

Propositions received from
the Paishwa on the
1st July 1799.

Answers and observations.

Article 5th.—His Highness the Nizam shall be invited to become a party in the alliance against a French invasion of India.

Observation 5th.—The Governor General anxiously desiring the security, tranquillity and prosperity of both his allies, the proposal for including His Highness the Nazim in the defending treaty for a new and improved alliance, will meet his wishes and be most acceptable to him.

Article 6th.—If the Company should require the junction of the Paishwa's contingent to oppose the French at a distance from Poona, not exceeding 300 coss, the Paishwa will furnish it at his own expense, otherwise it is to be at the charge of the Company.

Observation 6th.—As this proposal only specifies the distance at which the Paishwa agrees to join the Company's troops at his own expense, I can add nothing to my answer upon it given to Gopal Rhaw.

Article 7th.—When the Paishwa's troops serve within the Company's territories, they are to be supplied by the British Government with wood or straw to prevent ravaging.

Observation 7th.—The Paishwa's troops when serving with the British forces, will be supplied with forage in the same manner as the latter.

Article 9th.—The Paishwa demands an equal share with the other allies in all acquisition which they have made, or shall make in the dominions of the late Tippoo Sultaun.

Observation 9th.—I am concerned to receive this unreasonable and unfounded requisition from the Paishwa. When he reflects that he did not contribute in the smallest degree to the successes obtained in Mysore, but exposed his allies to the whole expense and danger of the war, I hope he will withdraw his demand and trust entirely to the friendship and generosity of his allies for obtaining such a partition in the conquered countries as they may choose to admit.

Propositions received from
the Peshwa on the
1st July 1799

Answers and observations

Article 10th.—Subsisting treaties to remain in full force. *Observation 10th*—All subsisting treaties will be acknowledged and confirmed by one.

No. 275—The Resident communicates a few comments of his own on the various terms of the subsidiary alliance proposed by the Peshwa. He also reports the progress of the settlement between Sindia and the Bys

FROM—THE RESIDENT OF POONA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 5th July 1799.

My Lord,

I have not received any reply from the Durbar to my observations on the Peshwa's propositions, which I had the honour to transmit in my last dispatch. Indeed, I do not expect that any further discussion of the subject will take place until your Lordship's sentiments on my reference are known. The Peshwa is, perhaps, willing to believe that some of his requisitions may appear less objectionable to your Lordship than they have to me and he can but recede from them at last.

His proposal for the aid of the Company's troops in enforcing his demands of tribute, appears to me utterly inadmissible, not only as incompatible with the principles of the British Government, but also as the service is indeterminable in extent and duration, since the pretensions of this State to tribute include every Power in Hindostan and Deccan, except the Company and its allies.

The assistance required for the reduction of the Island of Janjira is, perhaps, less exceptionable, as the Peshwa has a justly acquired right to the possession of it, and as the enterprize would be of a limited and temporary nature. But as this service would be foreign to the principles and objects of the new alliance, your Lordship would have an undoubted claim to an equivalent. But I am at a loss to suggest one, as I do not know of any cession to be required of this state, with which the service proposed could be brought into competition.

The negotiations between Sindia and the Bhyes begin to wear a conciliatory appearance. The Deccan troops engaged in the cause of the latter have agreed to return to their duty in Sindia's service, whence it is supposed that the ladies have previously adjusted the terms of accommodation. The Hindostanny cavalry in their service, insist upon the complete discharge of their arrears, before they return to that of Sindia.

The Peshwa, when he permitted me to establish a constant Dawk, having capriciously refused me the choice of stages, and prescribed them himself at great and unequal distances, the ordinary number of Hircarrahs is insufficient in this severe weather for conveying the correspondence without such delay, as may be prejudicial to the public concerns. I have, therefore, taken the liberty to add one Hircarrah at each stage to be continued during the rainy season, if your Lordship should approve of it.

No. 276—The Resident writes to the G. G. acknowledging copy of the treaty of Mysore and commenting on the portion referring to the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 12th July 1799.

My Lord,

I have had no opportunity of communication with the Peshwa's Durbar since my address of the 6th instant, nor am I at present desirous of renewing the discussion of his overtures for any other purposes than that of endeavouring to prevail on him to recede from those requisitions which, I think, your Lordship will deem inadmissible, since I may in a few days expect to receive your sentiments and determination on all the subjects of reference.

Captain Kirkpatrick has forwarded to me a copy of the treaty of Seringputtum ratified by your Lordship in Council. I do not conceive myself at liberty to make any notification of it to this Court until the ratification of it by His Highness the Nizam is announced to me.

Although the Peshwa has forfeited all claim to any share in the territory conquered by the arms and treasure of his allies, he will be dissatisfied with the portion which is generously assigned to him. Yet I think he will accept it on the condition reserved, as the other alternative would have him in a situation of great insecurity.

Gunput Roy came to me yesterday evening, but brought no other communication on the subject of his first message from Dhoondiabah, than that my answer had been sent to Balloo Tautea, who would probably defer his consideration of it until his return to the Durbar.

I learn from Gunput Rou that Tautia and Abba Chitnawis being extremely apprehensive of Sindia's intentions towards them, have united from a sense of common danger and are turning their attention to every quarter for support. Hence the application of Dhoondiabah to me, of which the principal object is to secure the authority and influence of Tautia and Abba by the appearance of Your Lordship's giving countenance

to their ministry. With the same view they eagerly solicit a coalition with Nana, but which he declines on pretexts of wishing to retire, but probably from distrust.

A powerful faction in Sindia's Government is formed against the present ministers, of which Ambajee and Mr Perron are the heads. Sindia has declared his intention of calling these officers to his presence, if Tautia is unable to effect an accommodation with the Bhyes.

But Sindia himself seems to defeat every effort of Tautia to inspire the Bhyes with confidence in such engagements as may be concluded, by rejecting their proposal to solicit the guarantee of the Company and the Nazim, they regard his refusal as a certain indication of his faithless intentions. On the points of settlement and provision for the Bhyes and their adherents, the parties nearly agree, but I do not know how the great difficulty of security is to be overcome.

In consequence of intimation from Captain Kirkpatrick of your Lordship's directions to him to expedite the correspondence between Fort St. George, Hyderabad and Poona, I have doubled the number of Hircarahs at each station from hence to the Nazim's frontier.

No. 277—The Resident communicates to the G. G. certain points in regard to the Treaty of Seringapatam. He also reports his interview with Raoji Appaji, the Baroda Minister, in which he was assured of the Co's support in case of Bajirao creating trouble for the Gaikwad. The dispute between Sindia and his female relations is also adverted to.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 16th July 1799

My Lord,

I learn from Captain Kirkpatrick's address to your Lordship of the 6th instant, that His Highness the Nazim has acceded to the treaty of partition concluded at Seringapatam. The conditions of it are publicly known here as detailed in news papers from Hyderabad, though not very accurately. This report will probably induce the Peshwa to call upon me for authentic information, and I am desirous of giving it to him, because the intelligence which has reached him, is less favourable to his interests, than the provision made for them by the treaty. But I do not conceive myself authorised to enter into a discussion of the subject without your Lordship's consent.

Rhowjee Appajee, the Minister of Gobind Rhow Guicwar, who has been three years at this Court on a special commission took leave of me yesterday on his return to Broderah. He delivered to me a letter for

Your Lordship from his Master, which I now forward to Mr. Edmonstone. The communication which Rhowjee made, and for which Govind Rao refers Your Lordship to me, was only of general professions (very strong indeed) of his Master's sincere attachment to the Company, his gratitude for the protection afforded to his rights and interests by the Treaty of Salbhye, and his earnest desire to give your Lordship proofs of these principles in whatever mode you might require them.

I desired Rhowjee to assure his master of your Lordship's entire regard for his welfare, and to rely on your protection and support to the full extent of the right which the Company possess to afford them by its engagements with the Mahratta State, and I told the Vakeel that Govind Rao might at all times freely communicate his situation and views to your Lordship. At this time a perfect good understanding subsists between this Durbar and Brodera. But the character of Baajy Rhow renders the continuance of it very uncertain and makes the friendship of the Company's Government a very desirable object to the Guicwar.

I have received from the Peshwa's Kharitta, and forwarded to Mr. Edmonstone, lists of the districts conquered from this State by Tippoo Suldaun and his father, and also of districts formerly tributary to it and which of both descriptions were subject to Tippoo at his death, but no pretence to restitution of any part of them is advanced by the Peshwa.

Terms of reconciliation between Sindia and his female relations are adjusted; the city of Bourhanpore and its dependencies including the fort of Asseer, are assigned for the maintenance and residence of the ladies and their dependants. But I understand that they will not consent to an interview with Sindea, until their substitutes are put into possession of the ceded places.

No. 278—The Secretary sends to the Resident the instructions of the G. G. for completing a treaty of subsidiary alliance with the Peshwa.

FROM—SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort St. George, 5th July 1799.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General to inform you, that his Lordship entirely approves the steps which you have taken with regard to your late communications with the Poona Court on the subject of his Lordship's instructions of 23rd May. His Lordship hopes that you will very shortly receive from the Resident at Hyderabad, a copy of the ratified treaty concluded by the Commissioners for the affairs

of Mysore and Meer Allum, on the part of the Honourable the English East India Company and His Highness the Nizam respectively, and ratified by the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council on the 26th ultimo His Lordship desires that immediately on receipt of it you will communicate it to the Peshwa and require him to accede to it. The mode of acceding to it, his Lordship observes, must be as you suggest by a separate treaty between the Company and the Peshwa, for which purpose I am now directed to transmit to you the enclosed draft. His Lordship desires that you will suggest any alterations or amendments which may appear to your advisable, but should no point arise which requires a deviation from the fundamental principles of the draft of the treaty and of his Lordship's instruction of 23rd May, His Lordship desires that you will proceed to execute a treaty accordingly with the Peshwa without further reference to him.

His Lordship desires that you will immediately enter into correspondence with Bombay upon this subject, but if the Peshwa should be ready to sign the treaty before an answer from Bombay can reach you, his Lordship desires that you will not on that account delay the execution of the treaty.

No. 279—In this important letter the G. G. lays down several features of his policy. He directs the Resident how to deal with the Peshwa and Sindia, so as to restrain them in their ambitious projects.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

*Fort St George, 8th July 1799**

Sir,

I now transmit to you such observations as appear to be necessary on some passages of your late dispatches, and on the draft of the treaty forwarded to you on the 5th instant.

I have already stated to you the grounds of my decided opinion, that the Peshwa has forfeited all right to claim any share in the advantages of the late war with Tipu Sultan. In this place therefore I shall only observe, that the plea of inability to fulfil its engagements stated by the Durbar of Poona in the 5th article of the Peshwa's proposition, is a direct admission that the Maharatta State is not entitled to any share in the partition of Mysore. For whatever might be their inclination, nothing less than

* Only a portion of this letter is printed by Martin, Vol. 2, p. 68

an effective cooperation in the field could have been deemed to amount to such performance of their engagements as could be deemed the foundation of a right to participate in the division of our recent conquests. But even their inclination has been at least equivocal, and by their continued intercourse with the enemy they have precluded themselves from the benefit of your declaration, made in my name, under the express condition of their renouncing all such intercourse during the war. Their conduct in the former war cannot serve as a plea to justify a totally different behaviour in the present. It might as well be contended that the Nizam should be punished for his want of zeal in the former war, as that the Mahrattas should be now rewarded for their alacrity at that period.

You must therefore understand and explain to the Peshwa, that I cannot consent to negotiate with him under any admission of his right to an equal or to any share of the dominions of the late Tippoo Sultan; whatever cessions may be made to the Peshwa from those territories, must be deemed gratuitous on the part of the Company and of the Nizam, excepting in as far as they shall be compensated by correspondent concessions on the part of the Peshwa.

I shall now proceed to remark upon the draft of the treaty which I have forwarded to you, combining my remarks with such references as it appears necessary to make to your several dispatches.

The preamble is no otherwise important than as it founds the new engagements with the Peshwa on the treaty of Mysore and consequently disclaims the Peshwa's right to any of the districts eventually ceded to him in the 7th article of that treaty.

Article 1st.—Requires no remark. It has been suggested to me that some parts of the territory of Soonda and *Belghey** would be peculiarly acceptable to the Peshwa. I desire that you will take an opportunity of ascertaining the Peshwa's wishes in this respect, as it is possible that I may be enabled to gratify them.

Article 2nd.—This article is absolutely necessary to restrain the predatory habits of the Peshwa's government.

Articles 3rd and 4th.—Require no remark. It may, however, be necessary to observe in this place that it is my intention to exclude both the Nizam and Mahrattas, especially the latter, from any interference in the affairs of the Rajah of Mysore, who is to be considered as a dependant of the Company. You will judge whether any specific engagement on this subject will be necessary to restrain the Court of Poona from intriguing at Mysore.

**Bilgi*, near Bagalkot, District Bijapur.

Article 5th.—The only difficulty which occurs to me in the execution of this article is the engagement which Azim-ul-Omrah appears to have contracted with the Peshwa, during the continuance of the late war, on the subject of the Choute of Bider. By this engagement it seems, that the Nizam has bound himself to purchase the exemption of the Choute of Bider by the payment of a considerable sum of money. I am not aware of the precise extent to which the Nizam's faith has been pledged with respect to this engagement. If it has not been concluded under full powers from His Highness and has not been ratified by him, no obstacle to this article will arise from the imprudence of Azim-ul-Omra, involving his court in such a negotiation during the war. If the Nizam should appear to be bound by the engagement, he must of course abide by its consequences. He cannot expect me to support him against the necessary effects of a negotiation commenced and concluded without my concurrence, nor can he claim my countenance to assist in the violation of his public faith. The Resident at Hyderabad will be able to give you full information on this subject.

Article 6th—This article unites the expressions of the 8th article of the Treaty of Hyderabad with those contained in the second article of Peshwa's propositions of the 16th of June 1799, and with such provisions as appear necessary to meet the suggestions stated in the 4th paragraph of your dispatch No. 125.

Article 7th—It is a very important point that the subsidiary force should be permanent. The grounds of my opinion on this subject have been already communicated to you by Mr. Edmonstone. This point, however, may be relaxed under such a stipulation as shall prevent the whole expense of the subsidiary force being suddenly thrown back upon the finances of the Company; the amount of the force is a point to be conceded with more reluctance. You have anticipated every material argument on this subject in the second paragraph of your dispatch No. 128, with the exception of one consideration, which cannot be stated to the Peshwa although it is of great weight in my mind. I advert to the danger of placing on the Peshwa's dominions any detachment of the British forces inadequate to defend itself against any possible act of treachery or violence on the part of the Peshwa or Sindia.

Article 8th—Requires no remark. You have stated with perfect justice in the second paragraph of your dispatch No. 128. The grounds of this article it appears to me indispensable; you will therefore adhere to it without variation.

Article 9th—Requires no remark.

Article 10th—You have already anticipated the necessity of this article with its proposed addition. We must carefully avoid any engagements

which might involve us with the independent chieftains of the Mahratta Empire.

Article 11th.—You will observe that the words of the treaty of Hyderabad adopted in this article (viz.) “ or in that of any of his Chiefs or dependants ” are precisely conformable to the Peshwa’s proposition. At the same time I have thought it expedient to insert a provision towards the end of the article for the purpose of guarding against any misunderstanding with Sindia. I concur in your opinion that it is a most desirable object to establish a permanent cause of disunion between the Peshwa and Sindia, and the whole system of my policy is a sufficient earnest of my anxiety to expel the French from the service of Sindea. But it might be dangerous to proceed to any steps which might tend to fix Sindea in the interests of the French. I desire you will keep this object constantly in view: nothing would be more satisfactory to me than to find means of conciliating Sindia’s interests in the present participation. Perhaps it might be possible to arrange this most desirable object by some equitable adjustment of his pecuniary claims on the Nizam and on the Peshwa. On this subject you will concert your measure with the Resident at Hyderabad.

Article 12th.—This article is indispensable, and at least of reciprocal advantage to all parties; the question proposed in the 4th article of the proposition from Poona might be answered by asking, “ In the event of a French invasion of Hindostan how is the Marratta State to be protected without the aid of the British Power ?

Article 13th.—This article is proposed principally with a view of providing for the Peshwa a fund for the easy payment of a part of the proposed subsidy. The arrangement would also be acceptable to the Company. If, however, the proposal should not be well received by the Peshwa, you will not insist upon it.

From your dispatch No. 128, I am inclined to expect that you may actually have concluded a treaty with the Peshwa before my draft can have reached you. The general outlines of your idea correspond so nearly with my own, that I think it probable I may ratify, without alteration, whatever treaty you may have concluded; some of the suggestions contained in my draft may be made the subject of separate articles hereafter.

I take this opportunity of suggesting to you that it would be useful to secure the establishment of our dawks thro’ the Marratta Empire, not only from Poona to Bombay and Hyderabad, but also from Bombay to our newly acquired territories in Canara. At the same time that the object of the hawk is secured, it would be convenient to establish a free passage for our troops from Bombay to Canara, under any regulations which might be deemed advisable.

If the Peshwa consent to receive a subsidiary force you will immediately signify that event by express to the Government of Bombay, to Lieutenant General Harris, and to Major General Hardy, specifying the amount of the force which His Highness proposes to take.

No. 280—The Resident informs the G. G. of Munshy Fakruddin having read the treaty of Seringapatam to the Peshwa and the Minister.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 20th July 1799.

My Lord,

On the receipt of your Lordship's commands conveyed to me by Mr. Edmonstone's letter of the 5th instant, I immediately sent a message to the Minister desiring he would appoint a time for me or my Moonshy to wait upon him, for the purpose of communicating to him the partition treaty concluded at Surungputum. He, in answer, desired to see Meer-Fukir-ul-Deen on the evening of the 18th, who waited upon him accordingly and read the treaty in the Persian language in the presence of Munshy Gopal Rao, who explained it article by article in the Mahratta language.

Nana Furnavees made no observation on any of the distributions recited in the treaty, but desired Meer Fukir-ul-Dien to assure me of his unalterable disposition to promote, by his advice and influence, the alliance and connection which Your Lordship wished to establish between the Powers of the triple alliance for their mutual safety and prosperity. He recommended that Fukir-ul-Dien should wait on the Peshwa with the treaty that he might be informed of the preliminary steps to negotiation before I should have an interview with him.

I adopted this suggestion of the Minister, knowing that the Peshwa would deliver his sentiments on the first disclosure of your Lordship's offer with more frankness to my Moonshy than to myself. I instructed Fukeer-ul-Dien to answer any objection which the Peshwa might make to his guarantee of partition by repeating those circumstances of the Peshwa's conduct which had invalidated his claim to any share whatever in the conquered countries, and to give him the strongest assurances of your Lordship's attention to his interests, security, and dignity, in the proposed new engagements which depend on his acceding to the Treaty of Seringputtum.

Yesterday evening Fukir-ul-Deen waited upon the Peshwa, by his appointment, and found him attended by Emrut Row, Chimna Appa, Narroo Punt Chuckerdeo, and Moonshy Gopal Rhaw. After having read the treaty, and finding that neither the Peshwa nor any of the persons present made any remark on it, Fukir-ul-Deen proceeded to encourage the Peshwa to rely on your Lordship's friendly views towards him, in desiring to maintain and strengthen the alliance between the Company and his Government. To which the Peshwa answered that he was entirely disposed to preserve and improve the connection. He would consult with Nana Furnavees on the treaty offered to his consideration for these purposes and acquaint me in the course of two or three days with the result of his deliberations.

My Moonshy observed some appearance of confusion in the Peshwa's countenance at the recital of his neglect to share in the burthen or dangers of the war, but no inference can be drawn from this circumstance of his real intention to proceed in negotiating or not. But if he seriously intends to allow due weight to the opinions and advise of his Minister, the negotiation will take place, and I shall hope for a favourable issue. I shall require his determination at the expiration of the period, at which he has promised it.

I am honoured with your Lordship's letter of the 8th Instant. Your remarks on the articles of the draft of a treaty, forwarded to me by Mr. Edmonstone, will enable me to proceed in the discussion of them with increased confidence. But any opinion of the success with which I may be able to conduct the negotiation would be premature, until I know whether the Peshwa will enter upon it, and upon what principles. I will only observe, for the present, that every proposition in the draft, whatever may be ultimately decided upon it, will be readily admitted as a subject of fair discussion, except the fifth article, which I apprehend will appear to this Court as out of place and time by being introduced into the treaty, when it will of course fall under your Lordship's arbitration as one of the subsisting subjects of dispute between the two Courts. I have not yet received from the Resident at Hyderabad the information respecting the treaty of Mhar and its consequences necessary to my speaking with precision on the point which I have suggested. But I am persuaded that your Lordship will be as averse to the appearance of a desire of any partial consideration for the pretensions of the Nazim in the differences which it may be your province to adjust.

I have always been of opinion that your Lordship's objects in the tender of a subsidiary force to this State, would be but imperfectly obtained unless it should be accepted in its full extent, and I have hitherto pressed it on the Peshwa and Minister, on the argument of the ineffectual security which could be expected from the slender force which they propose to employ.

It seems not to have occurred to your Lordship that Govind Rao Guicwar collects a Choute of the revenue of the city of Surat independent of the Peshwa ; and if it is, as I suppose, your Lordship's wish to relieve the Company's Government from this vexatious tribute entirely, the Guicwar must be treated with separately for the renunciation of his share I have little doubt that he would consent to it, especially if the Peshwa should set the example I have advised the Bombay Government of your Lordship's instructions to me to open a negotiation on this subject

It will afford me inexpressible satisfaction, if I should be able to conclude a treaty with this Court on your Lordship's views and principles, and without the necessity of further reference. I shall take the opportunity of the Peshwa's deliberating on the preliminaries, to accommodate him in the transfer of a part of the districts of Soonda and Belghey.

I shall lose no time in endeavouring to execute your Lordship's commands for obtaining the establishment of a Dawk, and the free passage of the Company's troops through the Mahratta dominions to our newly acquired possessions.

No. 281—The Resident communicates to the G G the progress he had made in the negotiation of a treaty of subsidiary alliance with the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 26th July 1799.

My Lord,

Having on the 21st advised the Peshwa of your Lordship's disposition to favour a wish which, you understand, he entertains to obtain some parts of the districts of Soonda and Bilghy, and having signified to him the next day that I was ready to enter into negotiation on the overtures held out to him by the partition treaty, the Minister sent for Meer Fukur-ul-Dien on the 23rd in the evening, and told him, that he had been the day before in consultation with the Peshwa on this subject, when it was determined to treat on the preliminary conditions, but the Peshwa desired that the period of one month after official notification of the treaty allowed for his acceptance or rejection of the proposed new engagements, might be computed from the arrival of your Lordship's answer to my references on his propositions In the mean time he was desirous, if I had no objection, of previously discussing with Fukur-ul-Dien, such points as might be immediately decided He then enquired whether Sindia was advised of the Treaty of Seringapatam, Fukur-ul-Dien could only satisfy him, that no communication of it had been made by me.

On my Moonshy reporting this conversation to me on the day following, I directed him to inform the Minister that your Lordship's instructions to me had so fully anticipated my references, that I was not only prepared to enter on negociation without reserve but also to conclude a treaty if we could agree, as I trusted we should upon the stipulations.

In consequence of this intimation, Nana desired to meet me at his house on the 25th. I waited on him at the hour appointed. He was attended by no other person than Munshy Gopal Rao. I prefaced the conversation by remarking the importance of the measure which was to be the subject of our conference, and expressed my firm reliance on the disposition and assistance to bring it to a happy conclusion, to which he answered by the most satisfactory assurances. Having, for the purpose of accuracy, taken with me the heads of your Lordship's draft of a new treaty, in the Persian language, Meer Fukir-uddin and Gopal Row interpreted them to Nana. I added an explanation of your Lordship's intention respecting the subsidy in proposing to commute the Choute of Surat.

The Minister listened with the greatest attention and complacency to the reading of the draft, but made no observation on any one article of it. He said that he would, without loss of time, report it in person to the Peshwa and particularly explain to him the new propositions which it contained. He enquired whether I had received your Lordship's answer to the references on the Peshwa's requisitions to be exonerated from the expense of his Contingent serving at a certain distance against the French, and for your assistance in the reduction of Gingera. But I did not make the want of it any objection to proceeding in the negociation. He then observed, that as the subjects under consideration might require frequent explanation and enquiry, he wished, in order to save time, that I would permit him to send for Meer Fukir-ul-Deen whenever he should have occasion, to which, I readily assented, and am better pleased with this mode of communication than if he had proposed to send Moonshy Gopal Row to me.

The Minister had nothing more to offer, but I would not take leave of him without reassuring him of the fair and honourable motives on which your Lordship wished to strengthen the connection between the Company and this State, and placing, in the strongest light I could, the certain and superior advantages which the Peshwa would derive from accepting, in its full extent, the support which you desired to afford him, concluding with my opinion that his well being, and even the stability of his authority, depended upon this powerful succour.

Both the Minister and Gopal Row fully assented to the justness of my reasoning, and I observed in their countenances and manner, throughout the conversation, a cheerfulness and confidence from which

I cannot help drawing a favourable omen of the turn of the negotiation. I hope that my next address will convey to your Lordship information of considerable progress in it, and in what manner it will terminate.

No. 282.—The Resident communicates to the G. G. the progress of a settlement being executed between Sindia and his ladies and that of the treaty of defensive alliance.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 30th July 1799.

My Lord,

Since my address of the 26th instant, no communication whatever has been made to me from the Durbar. The enclosed translation of a note from Gunput Roy will, perhaps, account for the Peshwa's silence

I have not yet been advised of the nature of the information which Sindia may have obtained from the Peshwa or Nana Furnavees, but his messenger returned to him on the 29th, and his report has been referred to Balloo Tautia and the other Ministers who are on a deputation to the Bhyes. If the Peshwa has submitted to Sindia the plan of new engagements proposed by the partition treaty and really means to be influenced by his opinion, my hopes of a favourable issue to my negotiations will be considerably discouraged. For I am persuaded that he will not regard without apprehension a closer alliance between this State and Company. I am, however, still inclined to believe that the Peshwa will not expose himself to the dangers inseparable from his being disunited from his powerful allies, to place his dependence on Sindia

If I do not hear from the Durbar in a day or two I shall, without betraying any anxiety or impatience for the Peshwa's determination, remind him that the period prescribed for his acceding to the treaty is fast approaching, without any progress being made in discussing the important objects of it

The Governor in Council of Bombay has authorized me to offer a sum equal to five years receipts, for commuting the Maharatta choute of Surat, or to negotiate the release on a cession or interchange of territory, conformable to a plan recommended by the Chief and Council of Surat, and approved by the supreme Government.

I apprehend that the pecuniary commutation offered, will be deemed very inadequate by this Court, and I think it will not meet your Lordship's intentions of a liberal compensation. The mode of territorial cession or exchange holds out a better prospect of success. But the Maharatta Government is very tenacious of its claims of Choute not so much as an

object of revenue, as affording constant opportunity for encroachment on the power and independence of those states in which it is established.

I am not aware of much difficulty in adjusting the other stipulations of the pending treaty, except as to the extent and duration of the subsidiary force, and the complete execution of the treaty of Mhar.

No. 283.—Bajirao asks Sindia for his advice whether he should accept or reject the share offered to him by the G. G. in the partition of Tipu's dominions.

Translation of a note from Gunput Roy to Colonel William Palmer received, 28th July 1799.

Baajy Row has sent Annabah Jahdoo to Doulut Rao Sindia with the following message. “The Governor General has directed Colonel Palmer to inform me that after establishing and providing for the Rajah of Mysore, the remainder of the conquered country is to be divided into three shares, and to require my assent to this distribution. In the first place, the natives of those countries are connected with this State by similarity of religion manners, and customs, I was therefore desirous of adjusting the dispute amicably. But the English Government proceeded to hostilities, and in compliance with its requisition, I also prepared to punish Tippoo's aggression by arms, but was precluded by the sudden termination of the war. Now it appears by the treaty of partition, that the shares are made unequal and a larger portion is assigned to the Nabob Nizam who is in all respects inseparable from me, than to me. How can I then accept of what is offered. What answer do you advise me to give?”

In consequence of this message the Maharajah consulted with such of his Ministers as are present, and sent Eetul Punt to enquire of the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees what were the particulars of your communications from the Governor General, and to say that when he should be informed of these, he would advise what may appear proper. Eetul Punt went to Poona yesterday; when he returns, I will inform you of what may be determined at this Durbar.

No. 284.—The Secretary explains the G. G.'s meaning and object in the proposed treaty of subsidiary alliance with reference to each article.

FROM—SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR GENERAL,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

Fort St. George, 20th July 1799.

Sir,

The Right Honourable the Governor General being at present occupied in preparing his dispatches for Europe, has directed me to acknowledge

the receipt of your letters noted in the margin, and to communicate to you his Lordship's sentiments upon their contents

His Lordship observes that the claim of the Court of Poona to a share in the late conquests is extravagant in the highest degree and untenable upon every ground. His Lordship remarks that he does not admit even the Nizam's claim to equal partition, and altho' a share of the conquered territory has been assigned to His Highness equal to that which is retained on the part of the Company, yet His Highness's right might extend only to a share of the conquests, *proportioned to his expense and exertion*. All that is assigned to His Highness beyond that proportion, is wholly gratuitous. Under this principle of partition, therefore, the Peshwa is destitute of every claim, admitting even that the provisions of the treaties of Poona and Paungal applied to the late war (which they evidently do not those of the 10th article excepted). The Peshwa would be excluded from all participation in the conquered territory by the very terms of those treaties, which specify that the allies respectively shall only be entitled to a share in the conquests made subsequent to the entrance of their armies into the enemy's country. His Lordship further observes that if the Peshwa's pretensions to a share of the conquered territory are unfounded, his selection of districts to constitute that share is still more extravagant, both with respect to their value and geographical position. It is not, however, quite clear from your letters whether the Peshwa's pretensions are so exorbitant as to extend to all the districts specified in that List, or whether he only meant that a selection should be made from it of those districts which his Lordship might think proper to assign him. His Lordship has not yet received the promised list of the conquests from the Mahratta State retained by the late Tippoo Sultaun.

His Lordship observes that the benefits which the Mahratta State derives from the subversion of Tippoo Sultaun's dominion, are of much greater importance than the acquisition of territory; for it appears from various authentic papers found in the late Sultaun's palace at Seringapatam, some of which are in his own handwriting, that it was his *determined resolution, by the aid of the French, to recover from the Mahrattas* as well as from the Nizam and the English, the territory which he had been compelled to cede to them at the conclusion of the war in 1792, and that a part of the plan of operations laid down by Tippoo Sultaun himself, was that the united armies of the Sultaun and the French should reduce Goa and all the country extending from that settlement to Masulipatam; a plan which necessarily involved the invasion of the Mahratta dominions. His Lordship observes that this circumstance (which he wishes should be particularly pointed out to the Court of Poona), ought to make a considerable impression upon the Peshwa's mind, and convince him, how essentially his own security was concerned in uniting cordially with the other allies to oppose a barrier to the designs of the French. In the place of a formidable power, hostile to the Mahratta State from the impulse of

bigotry, ambition, and revenge, is now substituted a friendly dominion with himself. Moreover the Peshwa has it in his power to make a considerable addition to his territorial possessions by acceding to an arrangement, of which the effect must be the re-establishment of his authority, and the prosperity and security of his government and country.

His Lordship directs me to inform you that he has reflected upon the proposition made to you, thro' Dhoondiabah, of guaranteeing the administration of Balloo Tautia and for a loan of ten or fifteen lacks of rupees as a means of conciliating the interests of Doulut Row Sindia. His Lordship directs me to observe upon this subject, that in his opinion it is not consistent with the dignity of the British Government to interpose its influence for the support of a minister of a subordinate state ; and that tho' it were unobjectionable upon that ground, the embarrassment which it might hereafter occasion to the Company and which would be so likely to occur under the circumstances of Sindia's notorious bad faith and treacherous disposition, is a sufficient ground for withholding his concurrence. If any other less objectionable mode of conciliating the interests of Doulut Row Sindia should occur to you, his Lordship requests you will suggest it.

His Lordship directs me to observe that it appears from a memorandum transmitted to his Lordship by the Resident with Doulut Rao Sindia, that the number of Frenchmen in the service of that chieftain, is greater than you have stated it to be ; but that in either case it is an object of great importance to remove them from Sindia's service. It is not the less essential because of the little estimation in which they are individually held. His Lordship's object is to eradicate the French interest altogether from Hindostan, and thus deprive that nation of the means of forming connections with any of the native Powers favourable to the design, which they have long entertained, of re-establishing their power in India, and which they will no doubt continue to pursue with indefatigable ardour.

His Lordship directs me to state to you the following observations to the several propositions of the Court of Poona, in the order in which they occur in your letter.

Although his Lordship greatly prefers the Peshwa's subsidizing a British Force equal in number to that stationed with His Highness the Nizam, but his Lordship is willing to meet the Peshwa's wishes in this respect by agreeing to station only two battalions with him ; but whatever number of troops the Peshwa may consent to subsidize, it is but reasonable that he should be charged with the full amount of the actual expense of a similar body of troops in the Company's service.

With regard to the proposition of assigning land in Jaydad for the discharge of the subsidy, his Lordship directs me to inform you, that he has always omitted to propose this mode of payment from the apprehension of exciting the jealousy of the Mahratta State ; but that the proposal having

come from the Court of Poona, he has no objection to it, provided the land to be assigned be conveniently situated, and that the Company have full and sufficient means of realizing the collections. If selected from the territory between Bombay and Goa or from the districts belonging to the late Tippoo Sultaun, eventually to be ceded to the Peshwa, the former of these objects would be fulfilled.

His Lordship directs me to add that the employment of the subsidiary force in the reduction of the island of Gingera is quite inadmissible, not only upon political grounds but upon those of law. The articles of the proposed treaty lately transmitted to you, specify the services in which the subsidiary force may be employed.

His Lordship admits the Peshwa's construction of the Company's proposed arbitration, but he requires that the Company be regularly informed of the origin and progress of any discussion between the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad, which may ultimately be referred to the Company's decision

The proposition stated in the 14th paragraph of your letter of 29th of June appears to his Lordship very reasonable, and he accordingly agrees to it in the terms specified in the 6th article of the propositions enclosed in your letter of the 2nd instant, provided the stipulation be reciprocal.

Since the above was written his Lordship has received your letter of the 6th inst. No. 131, and has directed me to acknowledge it, and to inform you that it suggests no remarks which have not been made in the foregoing part of this letter. His Lordship, however, directs me to repeat his determination not to permit the Company's troops to be employed in the reduction of the island of Gingera for the reason before stated

His Lordship directs me to express to you his desire you will bring the pending discussions at Poona to as speedy a conclusion as possible, His Lordship having reason to believe that the Court of Hyderabad suffering from the disappointment of its unreasonable and inordinate demands, was endeavouring to prevent the success of his Lordship's measure at the Court of Poona

No. 285—The Resident reports to the G. G. the explanations which his Munshi had given to the Minister on the terms of the treaty of alliance with the Peshwa

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 3rd August 1799.

My Lord,

I have been honoured with your commands in Mr Edmonstone's letter of the 20th instant. I shall give due attention to the principles and

reasoning which your Lordship advances in refutation of the Peshwa's claim to share in the conquest of Mysore, if he should still assert it.

The list which I transmitted from the Peshwa, was intended to point out the districts from which he would prefer a selection of whatever partition might be assigned to him.

Having reminded Nana, Furnavees that no progress had been made in our negociations while the period to which they were limited was passing, he sent Moonshy Sunker Row to me to enquire whether I had received your Lordship's answer to my references on the articles of the Peshwa propositions, and to repeat his request that the period fixed for the Peshwa's determination might be computed from the notification of your ultimate resolutions on them.

I told the Moonshy that I had that day received your Lordship's answer, that they were conformable to the opinions which I had given to the Minister, and that the want of them could have been no reason for suspending the negociations or desiring to protract their conclusion. I desired Shunker Rao to assure the Minister of your Lordship's entire consideration for the Peshwa's honour and dignity, for the support of his authority and the security of his dominions in the proposed new engagements, and your disposition to accommodate them to his circumstances, as far as consistent with the attainment of their leading objects.

I mentioned to Shunker Rao for the Peshwa's information the further discovery of the late Tippoo Sultaun's designs, and the danger which this State had avoided by the subversion of his power.

In consequence of the Moonshy's report Nana Furnavees yesterday evening sent for Meer Fukir-ul-Dien. The principal purpose of this summons was to learn your Lordship's determination on the points in reference. But he entered into a detail of observations made by the Peshwa on receiving his report of my last interview with him; as these consisted of merely a tedious recapitulation of subjects frequently answered respecting his conduct and the relation in which he stands to his allies, and were applicable to no other purpose than that of impeding the negociations, Fukir-ul-Deen said he thought it would be advisable to suppress them and proceed to adjust the propositions of the treaty without admitting any extraneous matter to enter into the discussion of them. The Minister assented to the propriety of this remark, and desired that no notice might be taken of this conversation, adding that as soon as I should furnish him with the information which he requires, no time should be lost in coming to a conclusion.

I have accordingly, directed Meer Fukir-ul-Deen to attend him with the conditions of the treaty as contained in the draft, and qualified by your subsequent remarks and instructions, and have acquainted him that I am ready to confer with him upon them as soon and as often as he pleases.

Sindia's deputies having adjusted the terms of reconciliation between him and the Bhyes and their partizans, Tautia is to return to the Durbar immediately, when I shall inform him of your Lordship's declining his propositions made through Dhoondiabah, and endeavour to learn his disposition to promote your Lordship's view of conciliating his Master by such other measures as may appear practicable and advisable.

Sindia has not yet given his opinion on the depending treaty as far it has been submitted to him by the Peshwa. He waits for the advice of his absent Minister.

I am not able to learn whether any attempts have been made by the Durbar of Hyderabad to defeat your Lordship's measures at this Court. But Sheshadary Pundit is the Deputy and creature of Ragotim Rhow and will implicitly act as his principal may direct; and as he has frequent conferences with the Peshwa, but has not once visited me since my negotiations were renewed, it is not unreasonable to suppose, that he may be occupied in effecting the purpose which your Lordship apprehends.

In adverting to the little estimation in which most of the French in Sindia's service are held, I meant to intimate the facility of obtaining their removal, but by no means to suggest it as an argument for their remaining, as I am convinced that the residence of a single individual of that nation in India cannot, in the present state of affairs, be matter of indifference to the British Government. I have not just now the means of procuring an exact account of the number and description of that people serving in the Deccan.

No. 286—The Secretary directs the Resident by desire of the G. G. to ask the Peshwa to deliver up the fort of Gooti to the Nizam's officer.

**FROM—THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.**

Fort St George, 21st July 1799

Sir,

By order of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General, I have the honour to transmit to you an article of intelligence just received from Hyderabad, from which it appears that the Killadar of Gooti hesitates to deliver up the fort to His Highness the Nizam's Officer, in consequence of the collusion of a person styled the nephew of Morar Rao Ghorpureah, with the Killadar, on the part of the Peshwa. His Lordship requests that you will immediately represent this circumstance to the Durbar and obtain peremptory orders to the person in question to desist from a course so unwarrantable.

No. 287—The Resident reports that the Peshwa had not given his answers on the points of the treaty under negotiation.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 6th August 1799.

My Lord,

I sent Meer Fukir-ul-Deen to the Minister on the 3rd instant with your Lordship's resolutions on the Peshwa's propositions which were in reference. But the communication did not draw any discussion or remark from Nana who said, that he would immediately submit them to the Peshwa, and on receiving his answers and instructions he should desire a conference with me.

Fukir-ul-Deen having intimated that I had been informed of the Peshwa's desiring Sindia's advice on the treaty under consideration, Nana assured him that no further information on the subject had been given to that Chieftain than of the share of the conquered territory assigned to the Peshwa, and the re-establishment of the Raage of Mysore. On a second application of Sindia in consequence of my requesting the Peshwa to proceed in the negociation, he seems to have declined giving any opinion.

The terms of reconciliation between Doulut Row Sindia and the Bhyes, are finally adjusted, and the latter with all their adherents, are proceeding to cantonments in order to carry the treaty into execution. This event will soon render a disclosure of Sindia's ultimate views unavoidable.

I have again reminded the Minister of our negotiations being at a stand-still and of the short period which remains for the discussion and adjustment of the important objects in suspense.

No. 288—The Resident forwards to the G. G. the explanations suggested by the Peshwa on the articles of the treaty. He records his own remarks on them.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,

Poona, 10th August 1799.

My Lord,

Nana Furnavees sent for Meer Fukir-ul-Dien on the 8th in the evening and without renewing former discussion, or advancing any claim, or

pretention to a share in the conquests of Mysore, proceeded at once to relate the Peshwa's answers to the stipulations contained in your Lordship's draft of a new treaty. These answers with some additional articles from the Peshwa, as translated from Fukiruddin's report, with my replies, I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's particular information.

The only differences left by the Peshwa's answers, which appear to me very essential, are the propositions for his fulfilling the Treaty of Mahr, for relinquishing the Choute of Surat, and for his engaging to maintain peace with the Nazim, and other allies of the Company, as I am convinced that no condition which can be offered would induce him to accede to either of the two first propositions, and as your Lordship has sanctioned my receding from one and Azim-ul-Omra has expressed his consent to withdraw the other, rather than hazard the failure of the negotiation, I am of opinion that an early concession of what must be ultimately conceded, will be advantageous, by saving time and tending to engender confidence which may influence the Peshwa's assent to the third of the above mentioned stipulations, and to reconcile him to the differences of inferior consideration.

I have just received permission from the Government of Bombay to extend its offer for commuting the Choute of Surat to ten years receipts of revenue or even to the expiration of the Company's charter. I shall renew the proposal on this ground, but I have little expectation of its making any impression on the Peshwa.

It is probable that Nana Furnavees will desire to receive my answers in the first instance from Meer Fukir-ul-Dien, whom I shall instruct to support them as long as practicable, but if he finds the propositions respecting the treaty of Mahr and Choute of Surat entirely hopeless, to intimate to the Minister that I am so well convinced of your Lordship's sincere desire to give the Peshwa every proof in your power of your friendship and consideration for his case and advantage, as well as to connect his interests and security with those of the Company and the Nazim, that I will venture to relinquish these important proposals if he will accede to the remainder in the terms of my answers and bring the negotiation to an immediate conclusion. I have advised the Minister of my answers being ready for his consideration.

Propositions from the Peshwa in answer to those contained in
the draft for a new treaty from the Governor General
with Col. Palmer's answers.

Answers.

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| <p><i>1st.</i>—The Commanding Officer of the Company's subsidized troops, or any person under his authority is not to interfere in the concerns of any member of this State.</p> | <p><i>1st.</i>—Such interference being contrary to the principles and intentions of the Governor General, it is the duty of the Resident to prevent it. The Peishwa may be answered that it will not be attempted. But it does not appear to be a subject of sufficient importance for a formal stipulation.</p> |
| <p><i>2nd.</i>—The subsidiary force to defend the Peshwa's person.</p> | <p><i>2nd.</i>—Certainly.</p> |
| <p><i>3rd.</i>—It is requested that the engagement to expel the French may be verbal until certain internal differences shall be composed, when it may be added to the Treaty.</p> | <p><i>3rd.</i>—The secrecy which is the object of this proposal may be equally preserved by a separate engagement in the form of a letter.</p> |
| <p><i>4th.</i>—The exclusion of other Europeans from the Mahratta dominions, is already provided for, by treaty ; it is unnecessary to include them in the stipulation relating to the French.</p> | <p><i>4th.</i>—The exclusion of Europeans alluded to in this article, does not embrace the Governor General's proposition which extends to individuals. The provisions of the 13th article of the treaty of Salbye are only against national establishment.</p> |
| <p><i>5th.</i>—A number of persons who were formerly subjects of Tippoo Sultaun, have taken refuge in this State and been subsisted by the Peshwa. During the late war, their subsistence was withheld ; how are they now to be supported ?</p> | <p><i>5th.</i>—I cannot answer this article ; but wish to know the number of persons of this description and their respective conditions.</p> |

Answers.

6th.—Surat having been the ancient demesne of Rajah Sahoo, the revenue and privileges which are yet preserved in it to this State cannot be alienated.

6th.—It is hoped that on further consideration the Peshwa will not for the single reason assigned, refuse an advantageous compensation, either in money or otherwise, for the remission of his Choute and other claims on Surat which would relieve the Governments from continual trouble and vexation and be esteemed an act of friendship and favour in the Peshwa towards the Company

7th.—Let all differences which at present subsist, or may hereafter arise, between this State and that of the Nazim, be adjusted by the Company's mediation in the mode of the Peshwa's original proposition.

7th.—All differences and disputes between the two States will be adjusted by the arbitration of the Company in the manner proposed by the Peshwa, but the objects of the Treaty of Mahr appearing to be unfulfilled on the part of this Government, The Governor General is impelled by a sense of justice towards his ally the Nazim, to support his claims founded on the stipulations of that Treaty, and which to His Lordship's knowledge have not been either rescinded or invalidated.

8th.—The Peshwa having obtained a transfer of the sovereignty of Ginjira through the mediation of the Company, it is proper that they should assist him in acquiring the possession of it

8th.—The Company's mediation of the transfer of the sovereignty of Ginjira to the Peshwa had no reference to his obtaining possession, this he was to effect as he could, and the British Government in India is precluded from affording the Peshwa any assistance in reducing the Island by positive laws and injunctions from England prohibiting offensive war without aggression.

Answers.

- 9th.*—The remission of duties to the subsidiary force is to be understood as restricted to provisions, clothing, powder and shot together with the carriage required for transport, and the supplies are not to exceed the actual consumption of the troops.
- 10th.*—The subsidiary force shall be employed in the defence of the Peshwa's dominions.
- 11th.*—Friendship is perfectly established between this State and the Nazim, and as the former is already engaged by treaty to refrain from aggression towards the allies of the Company, what occasion is there for a new stipulation?
- 12th.*—The subsidy for the Company's troops to be taken into the pay of this State, is to commence from its entrance into the Peshwa's dominions and at such point as he shall require.
- 13th.*—The amount of subsidy shall be ascertained and fixed, on the actual expenditure of the force employed.
- 14th.*—Whenever the Company may choose to relieve the subsidiary force, it shall be effected by single battalions in succession, and not by the whole relief taking place at once.
- 9th.*—The specifications in this article are perfectly reasonable, but require the addition of arms and military stores, which are as indispensable as powder and shot.
- 10th.*—This requisition requires explanation as to extent.
- 11th.*—The renewal of the pacific stipulations objected to in this article will give confidence to all the allies of the contracting Powers, and not possibly detrimental to either of the latter.
- 12th.*—The subsidy will commence from the time that the troops enter the Peshwa's territories, and the Peshwa may appoint its route to them unless it should be hazardous or materially inconvenient.
- 13th.*—The amount of subsidy will be determined in the manner proposed by the Peshwa.
- 14th.*—I see no objection to the mode of relief desired in this article, though I am at a loss to conjecture how it can be of any consequence to the Peshwa.

No. 289—Palmer communicates the Peshwa's assurance of his having instructed his officers to deliver the fort of Gooti to the Nizam.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE PERSIAN TRANSLATOR.

Poona, 10th August 1799.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a duplicate of my letter of the 6th instant addressed to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General.

The Peshwa assures me that he will immediately dispatch cossids with an order to the nephew of Morar Rhow Goorpurreah to desist from all intrigue and interference, to prevent the Nazim's troops obtaining possession of Gooti.

A report prevails here of the Goorpurreah family having been admitted into and taken possession of that fort, but I do not give credit to it.

Enclosed are copies of papers of intelligence received from the camp of Lacawa Dada

No. 290—The Resident communicates to the G. G. the discussion which his Munshi had with Nana on the terms of the proposed treaty.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 13th August 1799.

My Lord,

Meer Fikir-ul-Deen waited upon Nana Furnavees on the 11th with my replies to the Peshwa's answers on the conditions of the depending treaty, as detailed in my dispatch of the 10th instant.

The Minister entered into some discussion of the preliminary stipulation respecting this State, in the partition treaty. He expressed reluctance on the part of the Peshwa, to the engagements required for the security and tranquillity of the Rajah of Mysore's dominions. But he intimated that this reluctance might be overcome by an increase of share in the conquered territories, and with this view only I suppose the objection was made.

Nana persisted in desiring that the stipulation for removing the French should be verbal until it could be safely inserted in the treaty, and objected to the exclusion of all Europeans indiscriminately, from the

services and dominions of the Mahratta State, but consented to exclude the subjects of every European Nation that is, or may be, at war with Great Britain.

The Peshwa wishes to make an alteration in the provision of the stipulation for opposing the entrance of the French into India by extending the limits of mutual assistance without expense to the requiring state, to and from Fort St. George.

On the renewal of the offer of commuting the Choute of Surat, the Minister said, he would report it to the Peshwa. But he did not believe that it would be relinquished for any sum of money which the Company could be expected to offer for it, and Bancote was not an equivalent.

Notwithstanding my explanation of the obstacle to your Lordship's complying with the requisition for assistance in the reduction of Gingerah, the Minister pressed a further reference.

Without answering my request to know the number and condition of the fugitives from Mysore for whom the Peshwa claims subsistence from the Company, Nana required that either this should be afforded, or the Peshwa's share of conquest augmented.

On the stipulation for the Peshwa's fulfilling his obligations in the treaty of Mahr, the Minister said, he would, if I desired it, state it again to the Peshwa, but in effect, the differences relating to this treaty were already adjusted or would hereafter be submitted to the Company's arbitration if the agreement could not be carried into effect.

Nana Furnavees desired that these observations might not be considered as conclusive on any point, although they were conformable to the sentiments and wishes of the Peshwa, and such as I might expect to receive from him in consequence of my replies which should be immediately communicated to him.

Meer Fukir-ul-Dien perceiving that it would be only loss of time to insist upon the articles relating to the treaty of Mahr and the Choute of Surat, made the declaration in the terms and on the condition which I had instructed him, as stated in the last paragraph of my last address, which the Minister said he would submit to the Peshwa.

If the Peshwa should not accede to the condition annexed to the declaration above mentioned, I shall not deem myself justifiable in any further deviation from your Lordship's propositions and instructions, except in consenting to the modifications suggested by the Minister in the articles of mutual assistance against French invasion, and admission of Europeans not enemies. After having made these concessions, I shall advise the Peshwa that my answer is final, and that his resolution on it must terminate the negociation in either the acceptance or rejection of the proposed alliance.

The return of Sindia's Ministers from their deputation to the Byes is still protracted, and it appears to be doubtful whether the terms of reconciliation which have been adjusted will be carried into effect. It is reported that a new cause to distrust Sindia's sincerity has appeared, or been insinuated by persons who have an interest in fomenting the dispute.

No. 291—The Adjutant-General requests the Poona Resident to effect a revision of his military escort so as to bring it to the level of the Resident at Hyderabad.

FROM—THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 25th July 1799

Sir,

By order of His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, I have the honour to send you the copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government and to state for your information that the Hyderabad Escort consists of—

Two Subalterns, now Brevet Captains,

2 Subadars,

2 Jummadars,

6 Havildars,

6 Naiks,

4 Drummers,

112 Sepoys.

The Native Staff Establishment of the Hyderabad Escort consists of—

1 Sirdar,

1 Doctor,

2 Lascars,

2 Bildars,

2 Puckalees, and

2 Doolies,

The Commander-in-Chief has further directed me to add that he relies upon your adopting that mode of carrying the orders of Government into effect, which your experience may suggest as attended with the least expense and public inconvenience

The non-commissioned Officers and sepoy who, by this reduction of your escort become supernumeraries, will be enrolled upon the strength of regiments; the Havildars and Naiks will be directed to fill the first vacancies, and the whole receive their full pay.

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The non-commissioned Officers and sepoy who, by this reduction of your escort become supernumeraries, will be enrolled upon the strength of regiments; the Havildars and Naiks will be directed to fill the first vacancies, and the whole receive their full pay.

His Excellency desires that you will be pleased to apprise the Adjutant-General for his information, of the measures which you mean to adopt, regarding the supernumeraries and their arms, so as to effect their return to this Presidency.

No. 292—Palmer reports that the Peshwa was not going to retract the objections which he had made to the treaty of alliance.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17th August 1799.

My Lord,

Nana Furnavees sent for Meer Fukir-ul-Dien on the evening of the 13th to inform him that the Peshwa, on considering my replies to his answers and propositions (as detailed in my dispatch of the 10th Instant), has observed, that if he should agree to the stipulations of the partition treaty in favour of the Rajah of Mysore, he would be entitled to an equal share with the Company and the Nazim of the remaining conquered territory.

Meer Fukir-ul-Deen answered to this pretension, as I had instructed him, that it had been repeatedly demonstrated to be wholly unfounded, and was on every consideration of policy and justice, inadmissible.

The Peshwa still declined, the Minister said, to give a separate engagement in writing for the exclusion of the French, but was willing to give me in person a solemn promise to annex it to the treaty, whenever it might be done without risk of ill consequence to himself or of disappointment.

Fukir-ul-Dien observing to the Minister that the purpose of secrecy would not be more effectually secured by this mode than by a separate written engagement, Nana proposed that a promise to the effect required should be given to me by Gopal Row Moonshy in the form of his ordinary written official communications from the Peshwa. As this expedient was unexpected my Moonshy was not prepared to answer it and could only refer it to me.

The Minister proposed that the Jaidaad to be assigned for the payment of subsidy should be in Hindostan. To this proposal Meer Fukir-ul-Deen answered, that I could not deviate from the local situations prescribed by your Lordship.

On receiving my Moonshy's report of this conference, I immediately applied to the Minister for an audience either of the Peshwa or himself, reminding him that only five or six days remained of the period limited for negotiation, which I must declare to be at an end if the Peshwa should not decide before that term expires.

To this application made two days ago, I have not received an answer and the delay induces me to hope that the Peshwa is deliberating on his definitive resolutions preparatory to the interview.

The preliminary condition of the Peshwa's acceding to the partition treaty admits of no discussion. I do not think he will ultimately resist it, and reject an alliance attended with such important and obvious advantages to him, and for which he is to make no sacrifice whatever except of pride, prejudice and injustice.

I shall to the last contend for the stipulations relating to the dismissal and future exclusion of the French and all foreign Europeans in the form and to the extent required. But as the Peshwa's modifications of these engagements do not, in my opinion, materially affect your Lordship's objects, I shall, if he is inflexible, yield to his wishes rather than expose the treaty to failure on these points.

Should the Peshwa refuse to assign lands for the subsidy in either of the places which your Lordship requires, I shall demand security for its regular discharge in money.

When I had written thus far I received a message from Nana Furnavees (yesterday evening) desiring me to send Meer Fukir-ul-Dein to him, who waited on him immediately, and I have suspended the dispatch of my letter in hopes of conveying in it some decided information on the issue of my negotiation. But the Minister's communications varied from those made at Fukir-ul-Dien's last visit, only in a new and extraordinary proposal of the Peshwa's accepting the portion of conquered territory, reserved for him, on the condition of its being conveyed to him under the denomination of Choute. The Peshwa adheres to his propositions on all the points of difference stated above.

The Peshwa's proposal to hold the possessions to be transferred to him in Mysore on the tenure of Choute, is so directly opposite to the principles and views of the partition treaty, that I cannot hesitate to give it a prompt and determinate refusal.

I did not instruct Meer Fukir-ul-Dien to make the concessions to which I was inclined, if I could have brought the negotiation to a conclusion at a personal conference, and as I perceive that the Peshwa will not relinquish his requisitions until the last moment, I have directed Fukir-ul-Dien to wait on the Minister again, and declare, that I cannot consent to further deviation from the propositions contained in my replies of the 10th instant, and that as the time fixed for the Peshwa's decision will expire on the 20th, the negotiation will cease after that day.

I shall give your Lordship the most expeditious advice of the result of his declaration. I am still of opinion that the Peshwa will not reject the proposed alliance, though he will withhold his assent so long as time admits a hope of concluding it on his own terms.

Sindia's deputies to the Bhyes are all returned to the Durbar, having concluded the terms of reconciliation with those ladies and their partizans. But I understand that an interview between them and Sindia will not take place until the stipulations for their maintenance and security are carried into complete execution.

No. 293—The Resident expresses his compliance with the revision of the establishment of his escort as proposed by the Commander-in-Chief.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE SECRETARY AT FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 19th August 1799.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th Ultimo, and in obedience to the order of the Hon'ble the Vice-President in Council therein signified, I transmit, herewith, a statement exhibiting the particulars of expense disbursed in presents, from my receiving charge of this Residency to the present time.

The three camels, for the feeding of which a charge is made in my monthly accounts, were transferred to me as the property of the Company by my predecessor, and are all which remain of a number presented by the Guicwar Rajah to Sir Charles Malet when he attended the Peshwa in his campaign against the Nizam, and which I understand Sir Charles was permitted by Government to receive and retain on the public service.

I shall carry into execution the regulation for a reduction in my escort conformably to the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government, a copy of my address of the 17th instant to the Right Hon'ble the Governor General at Fort St. George.

No. 294—The Resident informs the G. G. of the Peshwa's fears of violence from Sindia if he brought in the British subsidiary force for his own defence.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 20th August 1799.

My Lord,

Since my last address of the 17th instant, Meer Fukir-ul-Dein has twice attended Nana Furnavees on the evening of that day and yesterday. At the

first of those visits, the Minister abandoned the Peshwa's proposition for receiving his portion of conquest on the title of Choute, which seems to have been introduced for no other purpose than that of inducing me to relax in my demands of a separate written engagement for the removal of the French, and of the exclusion of all Foreigners indiscriminately from the Mahratta Dominions.

I had not, however, instructed Meer Fukir-ul-Dein on those points, and the more I reflect on the Peshwa's pertinacious refusal to comply with the first, the less I am inclined to yield, as I cannot conceive any good motive which he can have for it, and the attainment of the object is of too great importance to be entrusted to either of the loose engagements proposed by the Peshwa

At the first of these conferences the Minister also proposed to suspend the Peshwa's requisition for a subsidiary force until the departure of Sindia.

I directed Fukir-ul-Dien, on his return to the Minister yesterday, to maintain my proposition for a separate engagement respecting the French, not to agree to the restriction of "enemies" in the clause for excluding all foreigners

I directed Fukir-ul-Dien to observe that the suspension proposed in calling for the Company's troops, was quite unexpected, the event on which it was to depend rendered the stipulation for the subsidiary force almost useless, and your Lordship's object of placing the Peshwa in a situation to be an effective member of the triple alliance, would be entirely frustrated; that it was only the presence of a British force that was likely to induce Sindia to quit the position which he has so long maintained, and secure the Peshwa from his design against his person and authority.

Nana Furnavees argued on the Peshwa's apprehensions of sudden violence from Sindia on the movement of the British force, to which Fukir-ul-Dien replied, that it would be easy to assure Sindia of such a force being inoffensive to him, or at any rate, that the knowledge of a new alliance between the Company and the Peshwa would deter him from any such attempt as was apprehended

The Minister then said, that he could not enter into further discussion of these points until he had conferred with the Peshwa, and on Fukir-ul-Dien's reminding him that the term limited for negotiation would expire this day, he promised to send Moonshy Gopal Row to me with the Peshwa's definitive resolutions, but not without contending that the term ought to be extended to the arrival of your Lordship's answers to the Peshwa's propositions

I shall make no further concessions than those of which I have already advised your Lordship, and which to my judgment do not defeat or render insecure any of the great objects which your Lordship has in view in the proposed alliance.

No. 295—The Resident proposes to yield in one or two requisitions of the Peshwa and thus close the treaty. The final result was to be communicated the next day.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 24th August 1799.

My Lord,

In my last address dated the 20th I had the honor to inform your Lordship that Nana Furnavees had promised to send Moonshy Gopal Rao to me on that day with the Peshwa's ultimate resolutions on the remaining points of difference in our negotiation. But instead of sending Gopal Rao the Minister requested that Meer Fakir-ul-deen might attend him on the next evening. To this request, I answered, that the time prescribed for negociation being expired, and my last proposals announced as final, the attendance of my Moonshy would be useless for any other purpose than that of receiving the Peshwa's acceptance or rejection of them. The Minister replied that his intention was to communicate the Peshwa's decided answers to the subjects in question. I therefore directed Fukir-ul-Dein to attend him.

At this meeting Nana informed Fukir-ul-Dien that the Peshwa consented to assign Jaidads in Mysore for the discharge of the subsidy, to be transferred to the collection of the Company whenever your Lordship's ratification of the treaty should be notified, but the time of requiring the advance of the subsidiary force into his dominions must be left to his option.

The Peshwa was inflexible, the Minister said, on the article of written engagement for the expulsion of the French, and on my qualification of that for the exclusion of all foreigners, to that of all enemies. He requires the specification of those enemies.

As I had instructed Meer Fukir-ul-Deen to make no further concessions, nor to suggest any expedient on the disputed stipulations, he could only answer to the Minister's communications that he would report the Peshwa's determination to me.

In consequence of these communications, I sent Fukir-ul-Dien to the Minister again on the 22nd with instruction to declare, that I could not, consistently with the spirit and views of your Lordship in the proposed alliance, make any alteration in the last propositions which I had given. In the Peshwa's offer to put the Company in possession of the security for the subsidy before the service of the troops was required, I acknowledged him to be liberal; but that no profit to the Company on the subsidized force was intended or would be taken, and the suspension of its immediate services in the protection of the Peshwa's person and

dominions, was an object of the first consideration with your Lordship.

The Minister answered to the latter part of this representation, that the Peshwa was fully sensible of your Lordship's concern for his safety and welfare, and that it was on the same considerations he wished to defer the advance of the Company's troops into his territories, until circumstances should require and justify his application of their services to the objects which your Lordship had principally in view in furnishing him with military aid. This the Minister explained by saying, that it is the Peshwa's intention to require of Sindia to proceed to Hindostan as soon as the treaty which he has concluded with the Bhyes, shall be carried into execution, as the completion of this measure will leave him without pretext for longer continuance in the Deccan. If Sindia should then refuse to retire, the Peshwa will apply for the full extent of aid preferred by your Lordship and by a junction of it with his own force compel Sindia's obedience. But if this chieftain should make no resistance and leave the Peshwa in the independent exercise of his authority, he will require only two battalions of the Company's troops to be stationed with him.

The Minister then informed Fukir-ul-Dien that the Peshwa yielded to my demand of a separate written obligation to expel the French. But to conceal the knowledge of it from Sindia, and to deny solemnly with a safe conscience if Sindia should be inquisitive that he had given such an engagement to me, "he proposed to deposit it for the present with Sheshadry Pundit, as the Minister of a mutual friend and ally."

The Peshwa will not recede from his requisition for limiting his exclusion of Europeans to the nations now actually at war with Great Britain, and those to be specified. If other powers should hereafter become our enemies, the Peshwa will then engage to prohibit their subjects from entering his dominions. Nana Furnavees desired Fukir-ul-Dien to return to him this day (the 23rd being a great Hindoo festival*) with my conclusive answers to the proposition herein stated, after which the negotiation should be closed.

My anxious desire to effect an alliance by which your Lordship proposes to complete a barrier against the destructive projects of the French and to provide for the security and tranquillity of all India, induces me to accommodate the treaty to the Peshwa's circumstances, as far as the attainment of your Lordship's essential objects in it will admit, and even to indulge his prejudices in such points as do not affect the public interests or the dignity of the Company's Government.

On these principles I have maturely considered the five remaining differences which still obstruct the conclusion of the Treaty, and in my judgment one of them only is important, that relating to the admission of

* i. e. the full moon of Shravan

Europeans into the dominions of this State. I have already made a material deviation from your Lordship's instruction on this head, by consenting that the restriction shall be only of the "enemies of Great Britain" instead of "all Europeans," and I am by no means satisfied that I have not departed from the spirit, as well as the letter of your Lordship's injunction in this concession. But convinced as I am of its being impracticable to reconcile the Peshwa's pride and spirit of independence to so general a restriction, and as it appears to me that your Lordship's principal apprehensions will be removed by the exclusion of all enemies, I flatter myself that you will approve of my not insisting upon the unqualified admission of this proposition. But as the Peshwa's last modification of this engagement is a deviation from that to which he had consented, and leaves no security against the admission of any numbers of Europeans of such countries as I may not be able to assert being at the time hostile to Great Britain, it shall peremptorily be rejected.

Various considerations incline me to admit the Peshwa's proposition for the time of requiring the movement of the subsidiary force being left to his option. The first of these is, that your Lordship has not prescribed any period for this requisition, although I certainly understand it to be your intention and object to be desirable in itself, that the measure should take effect as early as circumstances will allow. But the substantial object of the Peshwa's acceptance of the force being obtained, the ghauts being nearly impassable to artillery during the rains, and the probability of Sindia's affairs being in a state to induce the Peshwa's proposing his departure before your Lordship's sentiments on the treaty can be known, there is little appearance that the suspension of the immediate advance of the troops will be attended with any inconvenience, and to insist on an arrangement in which the Peshwa is more immediately interested than his allies, would excite in his distrustful mind the suspicion of a design unfavourable to his independence.

Although I do not like to make Sheshadry Pundit or any other stranger the depositary of a public engagement to the Company, yet as this point is rather formal than essential, and I can devise no better means of accommodating the Peshwa's conscience, I will submit to it rather than the treaty should miscarry on this single point.

From this statement your Lordship will be apprized of the terms on which my negotiation will probably close. But I am not without hopes that I shall avoid the concessions suggested in the two preceding paragraphs. With this view I have informed Moonshy Gopal Rao by note, that having already deviated from your Lordship's instructions to convince the Peshwa of my sincere desire that the alliance might not be defeated by my urging any point which I was inclined to believe your Lordship would not regard as indispensable, I could not recede from any

of the propositions which I had last submitted to the Minister ; that as the conferences must now cease Fukir-ul-Dien would wait upon Nana Furnavees to receive the Peshwa's final determination.

I have accordingly instructed my Moonshy to maintain those propositions until they shall be absolutely rejected, after his declaring that the negotiation is at an end. I hope to advise your Lordship tomorrow of the final result.

Doulut Rao Sindia has made some progress in fulfilling the conditions of the accommodation concluded with the Bhyes.

No. 296—The Secretary to Government desires the Resident to inform the Peshwa that no more delay shall be allowed to him to come to a decision on the terms of the proposed treaty of a subsidiary alliance

FROM—SECRETARY EDMONSTONE,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

Fort St George, 11th August 1799.

Sir,

As the immediate pressure of important business prevents the Right Hon'ble the Governor General from writing to you himself, His Lordship has been pleased to direct me to convey to you his instructions in reply to your letter of the 30th of July 1799.

His Lordship observes, that from whatever cause your negotiations at Poona have been protracted to so late a period, it is very material that they should now be brought to a close, particularly as his Lordship has fixed his departure for Bengal on the 4th of the ensuing month and is resolved no longer to suffer the question to remain in suspense. His Lordship therefore directs that you will immediately inform the Peshwa of his determination to embark for Bengal on the above mentioned date, and intimate to him the absolute necessity of his coming to an immediate decision upon the proposals which his Lordship has made to him, adding that if at the period fixed for his Lordship's departure the question should be undecided, his Lordship will be compelled to leave directions with the Government of Fort St George, no longer to delay the assumption of the territory set apart in the Peshwa's favor than is sufficient for the receipt of his determination upon his final reference. His Lordship accordingly desires that you will transmit your account of the result of this intimation of the Peshwa in duplicate to the Government of Madras and to Bengal.

No. 297—The Resident informs the G. G. that the negotiations with the Peshwa about the subsidiary alliance may be considered to have broken down finally.

FROM—THE RESIDENT, POONA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 28th August 1799.

My Lord,

Having since my last address by consenting, though reluctantly, to the Peshwa's propositions, on the time of his requiring the subsidiary force, and depositing his engagement for the dismissal of the French with the Nizam's Vakeel, reduced my negotiations to the single stipulation for excluding all European enemies from the Mahratta territories, and having assured him that the restriction to which I had assented, relinquished a very material part of your Lordship's object in this proposition, I was in hopes that he would no longer resist an engagement which never was refused in an alliance of the nature proposed, and which he professed an intention to adopt in effect. But, to my surprize and concern, he remains inflexible on this article, and I can no otherwise account for such unreasonable obstinacy than on the supposition of his intending to evade the engagement which he proposes to keep in reserve, or that of his desire to defeat the negociation in which he may have never been sincere, though he may have thought it prudent to manifest a disposition to enter into your Lordship's views.

But whatever may be the Peshwa's motive to this determined rejection of the stipulation in question, the execution of it to the extent which I have required appears to me indispensable, and it has not been without much apprehension of your Lordship's disapproval that I have admitted any qualification of it.

For Your Lordship's particular information of the circumstances which, since my last address, have produced the close of the negotiation on my part, I transmit to Mr. Edmonstone copies of correspondence between Meer Fukir-ul-Dien and Moonshy Gopal Rao. The Peshwa's desire of further reference to your Lordship, after he had been advised of your resolutions conveyed to me by Mr. Edmonstone's letter of the 11th instant, has much the appearance of previous intention to keep the negotiations in suspense. No answer has been yet made to the information given in Fukir-ul-Dien's note, sent last night, of the obstacles to further reference, and if no notice should be taken of it before this letter is prepared for dispatch, I shall conclude that he has no desire to form an alliance on the conditions stipulated.

It occurs to me, as not very improbable, that the Peshwa has been influenced by Sindia in his ultimate decision, as that chief has within these

two days, as I am informed, made strong remonstrances to him on his negotiating a treaty with the Company without fully apprizing him of its objects. It is, however, to be supposed that the Peshwa would have assigned his apprehensions of Sindia as a reason for declining a new alliance, rather than it should be ascribed to an objection of his own, if such was really the case, unless he has determined on a close union with Sindia to guard against the consequences of a separation from the Company and the Nazim. Of such motives and views or any others by which the Peshwa may be actuated, I hope to give your Lordship explicit information in the course of a few days.

I consider the revival of the negotiation as still at your Lordship's option, although I have not expressed this opinion to the Peshwa, lest it should be precluded by the instructions which you may have left with Lord Clive.

No. 298—The Resident explains the unenviable position in which the Minister Nana Fadnis had been placed by the faithless Peshwa and Sindia.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 30th August 1799.

My Lord,

Some hours after the dispatch of my address of the 28th Moonshy Gopalrao sent a note to inform Fukir-ul-Dien, that he should have some further communication to make to me when Emrut Row returned from a visit on which he was gone to Doulut Rhaw Sindia. As this notice implied no decision on the part of the Peshwa, and I could only infer from it a desire to prolong the negotiation for his convenience, I should not have postponed my advices of its failure, had the note reached me in time for that purpose.

I have not yet received the promised communication, but the information which has been given me from other quarters of the Peshwa's proceedings, induces me to expect that it will be trifling, or delusive. Kundo Pundit Vartak, a person who has assisted at the consultations on the proposed alliance, informs Meer Fukir-ul-Dien that the Peshwa, within these two or three days, and by the secret agency of Balloo Koonjer, has fully disclosed to Sindia, the conditions of the treaty and progress of the negotiation, adding that Nana Furnavees was desirous of bringing a body of the Company's troops to Poona for the purpose of controuling the power and authority of both Durbars. He therefore requested Sindia's advice for his final determination.

Meer Fukir-ul-Dein has also been informed, by Sheshaadry Pundit, that Nana Furnavees directed Moonshy Gopal Rao and Chimnajee Punt to represent to the Peshwa the unfavourable construction to which his conduct would be liable, if he should decline the treaty after bringing it so near to a conclusion, and that your Lordship would have received his refusal to treat on the first proposal with less dissatisfaction.

If these facts may be relied on (and I see no reason to doubt them), it is obvious that Baajy Row has never been sincere in the negotiation and has deceived the Minister and myself; and that if he is capable of a sincere intention and firm resolution in any one purpose, it is in that of confiding his safety and interests to Sindia in the last extremity, notwithstanding his experience of that chieftain's character and designs, rather than commit them to the friendship and protection of the Company.

If the Peshwa and Doulut Rao should cordially unite, it may be expected that they will resort to alliances with the enemies of Great Britain, both European and native, whenever such can be securely negotiated, to guard against the consequences which they may apprehend from their dereliction of their old allies, or for more dangerous purposes. It will be necessary to watch their conduct with the greatest vigilance.

But whatever danger there may be from such a connection, I am of opinion that it may be prevented and Sindia entirely detached from the Peshwa and engaged in the interests of the Company, as I have little doubt that he would accept of the very treaty which he has perhaps advised Bajy Rhow to reject. But I hope and believe that your Lordship will not feel the smallest necessity for resorting to such an expedient.

It is, however, much more probable that the two Durbars will revert to the state of distraction which has been suspended rather than composed by the defection in Sindia's family and troops, than that a cordial union between them will ever take place. Balloo Tautia entertains the most implacable enmity to Bajy Row, whom he will certainly depose if he completely establishes his authority in the administration of Sindia's government. In this view he has earnestly sought a coalition with Nana Furnavees who declines it rather from distrust of Tautia, than from attachment to the Peshwa, whose faithless character leaves no security to any person connected with him. Balloo Tauteah, disappointed in his overtures to Nana, is assiduously endeavouring to engage Emrut Rao in his projects, and as I am credibly informed, has tempted him by the prospect of placing his son (a child) on the Musnud, and of course putting the administration into the hands of the Rhow himself. Nana Furnavees must be removed to facilitate this scheme, and, indeed, whether from the designs of Tautia, or the suspicion and hatred of both the Peshwa and Doulut Row, the ruin of that Minister appears to me inevitable.

Last night Meer Fukir-ul-Deen received another note from Gopal Rao, merely to inform him that the Peshwa and Nana Furnavees would desire to see him either this day or tomorrow. I directed Fukir-ul-Dien to answer that he would attend the Peshwa and Minister at any time which they might please to appoint, but that it was too late to renew the negotiation, as I had on the 28th advised your Lordship of its being closed; that in consequence of this advice, the share of conquered territory reserved for the Peshwa will have been taken into the possession of the other allies, and that I can now only apprize your Lordship of any further proposition or resolutions which the Peshwa may have to communicate.

I kept the conferences open seven days, beyond the time prescribed by your Lordship for their continuance, and frequently reminded the Peshwa of the necessity which I was under of bringing them to a conclusion. I also gave him notice of my final advices being prepared for dispatch. If he now wishes to accede to the treaty on my qualification of the only article of disagreement, he must blame his own unreasonable delay for his disappointment. But as he might, if this is his intention, have immediately signified it to me, I rather think his purpose in desiring the attendance of my Moonshy is to propose further reference to your Lordship, than to agree to the proposition in dispute.

No. 299—The Peshwa's objections to some of the G. G.'s propositions have been answered in this communication.

FROM—THE MILITARY SECRETARY,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA

Fort St George, 22nd August 1799

SIR,

The Right Hon'ble the Governor General being much engaged in consequence of his approaching departure from this place, has directed me to acknowledge his receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to transmit to you the enclosed memorandum containing his Lordship's observations and final instructions on the different modifications of the depending treaty proposed in the paper accompanying your dispatch

I am, etc , etc , etc ,

(Signed) Wm Kirkpatrick,

Military Secretary.

Article 1st.—The admission of such an article would be discreditable to the British Government, as implying that it was likely to interfere in the domestic concerns of the Mahratta State. It cannot, therefore, be consented to.

Article 2nd.—The subsidiary force in the pay of the Peshwa may be employed in the defence of the Peshwa's person in the same manner as the subsidiary force in the pay of the Nizam is liable to be employed in the defence of His Highness's person.

Article 3rd.—The engagement herein referred to cannot be verbal. It must be written, and a separate secret article would, besides being more formal, answer the purpose of the Peshwa as well as a letter, the mode suggested by Col. Palmer.

Article 4th.—Colonel Palmer's observation on this article is extremely just, and the object ought not to be receded from.

Article 5th.—The commutation of the Choute of Surat is a point which must of course be given up, if the arguments already urged should not have the effect of subduing the Peshwa's objections to the measure. It was formerly suggested that Fort Victoria might be offered in exchange for the Choute of Surat, but this idea would not appear to have been formed.

Article 7th.—The Peshwa's modification of the article of arbitration comprehending all that can be reasonably desired, there is no necessity for any further mention of the treaty of Mahr.

Article 8th.—The question respecting Gingera must always be answered decidedly in the negative.

Article 9th.—Sufficiently satisfactory with the amendment proposed by Colonel Palmer.

Article 10th.—The subsidiary force with the Peshwa will be employed on the same principles as regulate the application of the subsidiary force with the Nizam, reasonable consideration being always had to its amount on which the extent and, in some measure, the nature of its services must necessarily depend.

Article 11th.—The Nizam was not comprehended among the allies of the Company alluded to in this article. Had this been the case, the attack made by the late Peshwa on the Nizam would have been a breach of treaty. The provision objected to must not be conceded to the Peshwah.

Articles 12th and 13th.—The amount of the subsidy paid by the Nizam was regulated by the very principle insisted on in this article: no alteration

therefore can possibly be admitted in the amount of the subsidy as before stated. With respect to the date of its commencement, there can be no objection to the Peshwa's proposition, with the qualification offered by Colonel Palmer.

Article 14th—The reason of the Peshwa's proposing this article is sufficiently obvious : but as the mode of relief proposed by him might, in some cases, be as inconvenient to us as a general relief would appear to be alarming to him, nothing more can be prudently conceded on this head than a general assurance, that in the case supposed the wishes of the Peshwa shall be consulted as much as possible

No. 300—Col. Palmer signifies his compliance with the resolution of the Commander-in-Chief for reducing the escort of the Residency of Poona

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE ACTING ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Poona, 2nd September 1799

Sir,

I have been honoured with the commands of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, communicated to me by the acting Adjutant General under date the 25th July, and in obedience thereto the escort of this Residency has been reduced to the establishment fixed by the resolution of Government, from the expiration of the last month.

As the supernumerary non-commissioned officers and sepoys will be exposed to danger, on their return to Hindostan, from the numerous hoards of banditti which infest the roads, I purpose to detain them until I can have an opportunity of providing for their safety, by their joining one of the strong parties of pilgrims which will proceed to Hindostan immediately after the rains Their arms I shall deposit in the magazine at Bombay

I beg leave to submit the enclosed representation from Captain Palmer to the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief. I can make no addition to it, except that of my testimony of the facts stated His Excellency will determine whether they are of sufficient weight to induce any alteration in his order respecting them.

No. 301—Samuel Palmer commanding the Resident's escort represents that the proposed reduction of the escort if effected would not conduce to the proper discharge of the duties they were called upon to perform.

FROM—SAMUEL PALMER,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Poona, 17th August 1799.

Sir,

Permit me to request you will have the goodness to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the difficulty of carrying out the reduction of your escort in its full extent into immediate effect, from the prevailing circumstances, which I consider my duty to represent to you.

You are sensible that from the considerable distance of the bungalows from each other, from the numerous bodies of robbers that infest the roads, and from the jealousy of the Mahratta Government in not allowing us to build walls around our bungalows which would in a great measure protect us, much as we are exposed to depredations, I therefore apprehend that.....a reduction of non-commissioned officers and Privates, and the consequent.....diminution of sentries, independent of the frequent escorts required for conducting European deserters to Bombay, as well as parties occasionally detached for the protection of supplies, will not only subject you and the gentlemen attached to the Residency to continual alarm from nightly thieves, but also to insult from the crowds of vagabonds that daily pass through our cantonment, to and from the city.

From the present state of the corps, near thirty men being in the hospital and several of them dangerously ill, and from my own knowledge that it is not more than equal to the duties required, and from the (almost) impracticability of passing through the country in this severe season, which is so much intersected by rivers and nullahs, I am willing to hope that His Excellency upon a review of these circumstances, will authorize your deviating in some degree from his instructions on the intended reduction of the escort.

I herewith have the honour to enclose you a statement of the guarantee required, and which from the best of my judgment, I conceive indispensable for the duties of the Residency.

No. 301A.

FROM—SAMUEL PALMER,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Poona, 2nd September 1799.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief, that agreeable to your instructions I have this day carried into execution the orders of government, for the reduction of the escort attached to your Residency, and also that application is made by about 20 sepoys, for their discharge which, I have informed them, will be complied with when the pleasure of His Excellency shall be made known to you.

A statement of the Guards mounted at the Residency at Poona.

—	Non-com- missioned Officers	Sepoys	Sentinels by day	Sentinels by night
Resident's, or what is called Main Guard	3	20	5	5
Do augmented in the evening		16		4
Over the cattle, and at the Khans (munes?)	1	8		2
Line Guard over the Magazine, Belts of Arms, the Rear, and Bazar	2	24	4	6
Capt Wm Palmer's Bungalow, and at Mr Desborough's	1	16		4
Captain DeCourey's	1	8	1	2
Captain Samuel Palmer's	1	8	1	2
Weekly Orderlies		3		
Total	9	103	11	25

No. 302—The Resident informs the G. G. of Bajirao's compliance with the proposed treaty except in one particular about the expulsion of Frenchmen.

FROM—THE RESIDENT,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

o

Poona, 3rd September 1799.

My Lord,

Nana Furnavees desired the attendance of Meer Fakir-ud-Dien on the 31st, when he informed him that the Peshwa had come to a final decision on the remaining article in dispute, but would himself communicate it to Fukir-ul-Deen, whom for this purpose and to compare our respective propositions as they would stand, he desired to see the next evening.

Fukir-ul-Dien replied to the Minister that he had my instructions to attend the Peshwa, and to receive any proposals which he might please to make, but to acquaint him that I could only take them in reference, as I had been compelled after much improper and unavailing delay, to advise your Lordship that my negotiations were closed.

Nana Furnavees appearing to be much affected by this information, and pressing for the continuance of the negotiation, Fukir-ul-Dien reminded him of the frequent warning which I had given of the necessity in point of time, of coming to a conclusion, and of my attention to the Peshwa's circumstances and wishes in the terms, as far as they could be reconciled to your Lordship's ultimate view in the proposed alliance, and again informed him that I was precluded from further discussion, by the instructions which your Lordship had apprized me you should leave with the Government of Fort St. George.

In the interval between this visit of Fukir-ul-Dien to the minister and the time appointed for his waiting on the Peshwa, I received Colonel Kirkpatrick's letter of the 22nd August, conveying your Lordship's remarks and answers on the Peshwa's propositions referred to in my address of the 10th of the same month. As these imply a renewal of the conferences and have afforded me an opportunity of reverting to your Lordship's original stipulation for the removal of the French and future exclusion of all foreigners from the Maharatta dominions, I instructed my Moonshy to confer with Gopal Row. When the comparison was finished and some trifling differences in expression or construction were reconciled, the Peshwa said, that being sincerely desirous of maintaining and improving his alliance with the Company, and having a perfect reliance on your Lordship's friendly and disinterested views in it, he had acceded to several propositions which interfered with the system, practice and object of the Mahratta State, that the treaty was obstructed by only one point of difference, and this he was anxious to remove by agreeing to my ultimate proposal,

with some little variation. He would engage to exclude from his dominions the subjects of France, Spain, and Holland specifically, as now at war with the British Nation, and all other Europeans, whenever their respective states shall become enemies to it. But wishing this engagement to be for the present secret, it should be made a separate article. As there is, in effect, no difference between this proposal and mine, I should not have hesitated to accede to it, if your Lordship's last instructions had not changed the state of the question. But Meer Fukir-ul-Dien, conformably to my directions, informed him that although by your Lordship's commands just arrived I was now authorized to conclude the treaty, yet a knowledge of your sentiments and determination compelled me to recur to the original clauses of this proposition, and that for a separate and secret article in the usual form for the expulsion of the French

The Peshwa gave up the last point with much difficulty, but adhered to his resolution on the former, and I fear will persist in it at all hazards.

Although it is your Lordship's opinion that this point ought not to be conceded to the Peshwa, I cannot think you hold it of so much importance as to involve the fall of the treaty, especially, as few, or no foreign Europeans are likely to resort to India except of those nations which are specifically excluded. I also allow some consideration to the concession which I had already made, although it must be admitted that the treaty having been broken off by the Peshwa's disagreement, your Lordship has a right to renew it in any shape you please, and the Peshwa ought to acknowledge it, as even liberal only to adhere to that in which it was originally presented. But these reflections can have little weight in opposition to the substantial purposes of the alliance

The information which Kundoo Pundit Wurtuk gave to Meer Fukir-ul-Dien of the Peshwa having disclosed the treaty to Sindia, has been confirmed by Nana Furnavees to the same person, and corroborated to me by Gunput Row to whom Balloo Tautia mentioned his knowledge of the stipulation for subsidizing a body of the Company's troops.

It is difficult to reconcile this disclosure with any sincerity in the Peshwa's progress in the Treaty, or with any intention to fulfil his engagement if he should, conclude it, unless it may be supposed that Sindia has consented to it, which I am assured is not the case. It is, indeed, asserted that the strong reproaches of Nana Furnavees for having betrayed his counsels in the negotiation to Sindia after having encouraged him to give them by promise on oath not to reveal them to that Chieftain, and for discrediting him in his administration by refusing the treaty when he had brought it so near to a conclusion, have extorted his consent to the concession abovementioned. But this proves nothing as to his sincerity, and his apprehension of, or inclination to, Sindia may erase the impressions made by the minister.

Gopal Row informs me that the Peshwa will visit Nana Furnavees this day under the appearance of compliment on celebrating the festival of Gunnaise, and use the opportunity to settle the treaty.

No. 303—The Resident is informed that the Governor General does not accede to any modification of the proposed terms and that the Peshwa may accept or reject them as he liked.

FROM—THE MILITARY SECRETARY,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort St. George, 27th August 1799.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General to acknowledge his Lordship's receipt of your letter of the 13th instant.

His Lordship observes with astonishment what you state in the second paragraph of that letter respecting the reluctance of the Peshwa to enter into the engagements required for the security and tranquillity of the Rajah of Mysore's territories. This reluctance appears the more extraordinary to his Lordship, as it is not long since the Peshwa declared a similar engagement with regard to the Nizam to be superfluous, because he is already bound by treaty not to commit any act of aggression against the allies of the Company. The conduct of the Peshwa in thus avowing a backwardness to comply with the reasonable condition referred to, joined to the intimation conveyed by Nana on that occasion, amounts in his Lordship's opinion to an indication of a spirit so hostile to all good understanding as greatly diminishes his desire to pursue the negotiation with your Court any further, and accordingly, if His Highness should not have acceded to the Treaty of Mysore within the period fixed by the seventh article of that treaty, that is to say, by the 19th of August, and if you should in consequence have broken off the negotiation as his Lordship concludes you will have done, you are to signify both to the Peshwa and to the Minister not only the extreme displeasure which has been excited in his Lordship's mind by your present communication, but also the determination of his Lordship not to renew the late discussions between the two Governments until he shall be better satisfied than he now is of the sincerity of His Highness's disposition to cultivate and improve his connection with the British nation.

Lest, contrary to his Lordship's expectations, the negotiation should still be open at the time of your receiving this letter, I am directed to communicate to you his Lordship's further observations on your dispatch of the 13th instant.

For his Lordship's determination on the reiterated proposals of Nana that the stipulation for removing the French should be verbal, His Lordship directs me to refer you to the 3rd paragraph of the memorandum enclosed in my letter of the 22nd instant

His Lordship instructs me to say that he can on no account consent to the modification of the article respecting the exclusion of Europeans from the service and dominions of the Mahratta State, insisted on by the Minister,—under such a modification there would be nothing to prevent the re-establishment, to any extent, on the return of peace of French and other Europeans (secretly hostile perhaps to the British nation) in the Mahratta territories. The article must therefore stand in substance and spirit, as in the subsidiary treaty of Hyderabad, and I am directed to add, that should you have admitted the modification of it proposed by your Court, his Lordship will be under the necessity of withholding his ratification of the treaty until this defect shall be rectified conformably to his present instructions

I am directed by his Lordship to inform you, that he does not at present clearly comprehend what is intended in the 4th paragraph of your letter by extending (for the purpose of opposing the entrance of the French into India) the limits of mutual assistance, without expense, to the requiring state to and from Fort St. George. If it be meant that the mutual assistance spoken of is not to be afforded in the event of the French landing anywhere on the coast of Malabar, but is to be confined to the case of their attacking us on the coast of Corromandel, it is evident that the provision would not be calculated to meet the most probable contingency of the two. His Lordship therefore hopes that you will not have relinquished what constituted the most essential object in the guarantee article here referred to.

If the negotiation should happen to be still open on your receipt of this letter, his Lordship desires you will ascertain what pecuniary payment, in addition to the cession of Bancoot, would be deemed by the Court of Poona as an equivalent for the Choute of Surat.

There appears to his Lordship to be something so absurd in the demand of the Peshwa respecting fugitives from Mysore, that he is at a loss how to answer it; and can only add to what he has already said on this subject in the 5th paragraph of the memorandum enclosed in my letter of the 22nd of August, that if the Peshwa has given refuge to any of the people of Mysore, it has been a voluntary act on the part of His Highness, and that if he should not any longer think proper to be at the expense of maintaining them, he is at liberty to dismiss them whither he pleases, it being a matter of perfect indifference to his Lordship where they reside

As the Peshwa would have to declare on the 19th of August his determination with regard to the treaty of Mysore, his Lordship expects to learn the result by the 1st of September. If there should be a refusal on the

part of the Peshwa, to accede to the treaty, it is his Lordship's intention to issue orders immediately for the complete assumption and division of the reserved territory, conformably to the stipulations of the 2nd separate article. His Lordship understanding that Dhoondia Punt Goaklah has, in the meanwhile, taken possession of certain parts of the territory on behalf of the Peshwa, he is pleased to desire that you will remonstrate with His Highness on the irregularity of such conduct previously to His Highness not having acceded to it within the limited period; you are to call upon him to adopt effectual measures for withdrawing immediately such of his troops as may have entered the territory in question, whether by or without his authority, to the end that when the Company's forces came to take possession of it, there may be no danger of anything occurring of a nature prejudicial to the friendship and good understanding at present subsisting between the Governments.

No. 304—The Resident in this important communication pronounces at length an emphatic judgment on the Peshwa's extreme insincerity and faithlessness in cleverly deceiving the Governor General throughout the whole course of negotiations.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th September 1799.

My Lord,

It is with infinite concern that I have to inform you of the reiterated prevarications, delays and evasions of the Peshwa, notwithstanding my renewal of the negotiations, as I advised your Lordship in my last address, and the notice which I gave him that I could allow only two days for his final determination.

The Peshwa having visited and consulted with Nana Furnavees on the 3rd, that Minister sent for Meer Fukir-ul-Dien on the 4th, but instead of communicating any decision on the two articles still under discussion, he brought forward a new and most extraordinary proposition for the Company's engaging to defend the Peshwa's person and dominions, with their whole force, and without offering any compensation for such unlimited protection. He further persisted in the unbecoming requisition for a stipulation against the interference of British officers in the concerns of his Sirdars, positively refused an indiscriminate exclusion of Europeans, to admit supplies of arms to the subsidized troops, and required that a specification of the friends and allies of the Company and Nizam should be insisted in the clause for his maintaining peace towards them.

The proposed alteration in the engagement for assistance against French invasion, meant no more than an extension of gratuitous aid reciprocally, that is the troops of either state shall serve the other at the expense of its own at any distance not greater than that between Poona and Madras, and in any directions at any greater distance the requiring state to pay the contingent furnished by its ally.

In consequence of advice received a few days ago from General Harris I had required of the Peshwa to enjoin Dhoondia Punt Ghokla to withdraw his detachment from Soonda, but no answer being yet given, I have repeated the requisition in your Lordship's name.

Last night Fukir-ul-Dien received intimation from Gopal Rhow that he had laid my representation before the Peshwa and the minister, that an order would be immediately dispatched to recall the troops of Dhoondia Pant Ghokla from Soonda; and that Nana would desire an interview with Meer Fukir-Dien this day. I do not suppose that the Peshwa has any other view in this meeting than to protract the negociation. But should he even close with the propositions on terms which your Lordship has now directed me to require, I conceive myself precluded by the tenor of your instructions from concluding the treaty, and can only take his consent on reference. The additional evidence which the course of these negociations has furnished, of the Peshwa's extreme versatility, the notoriety of his faithlessness and duplicity, and the distractions in his Government, seem to render it indispensable to the attainment of any effectual aid in the event of a French invasion, that he should engage to receive immediately the proffered subsidiary force in its fullest extent.

No. 305—This note reveals the real intentions of the Peshwa in protracting the negotiations.

*Translation of a note from Lalla Gunput Roy to Moonshy-Fukir-ul-Dien,
Received, 5th September 1799.*

This day the 4th of Rubby-ul-Saany, on account of its being inauspicious, it is determined that Balloo Koonjer shall attend tomorrow, after which the Ministers (Sindia's) shall wait on Nana Furnavees; much consultation has been held on the proposals of the Company; one object is that in the division of country an equal share shall be required, another, whatever booty has been obtained after deducting the expenses of the troops, a third part shall be assigned (to the Peshwa) and the name of Meer Allum Khan shall not be inserted in this agreement, and as to the admission of French and other Europeans, if they come for the purpose of trade, they shall not be refused; if they come to interfere in affairs of state they

shall not be admitted; after consulting with Bajy Row and Nana Furnavees, whatever may be determined will be proper.

No. 306—The Resident forwards Nana Fadnis's proposal for a treaty being negotiated on the propositions put forth by the Peshwa. He however advised that the Peshwa should give his propositions in writing.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 10th September 1799.

My Lord,

It was not until the 8th that the Minister desired to see Meer Fukir-ul-Dien in consequence of my notification to the Peshwa on the 4th, of my negotiations being closed, and nothing passed at the interview that could in the smallest degree justify my retracting that declaration or induce me to change the sentiments which I expressed in my last address of the Peshwa's insincerity throughout the conferences

Nana Furnavees after much profession, in the name of the Peshwa, of a sincere disposition to engage in a more extensive and intimate alliance with the Company, and observing that he had made great sacrifices of the system and principles on which the Maratta power was conducted to obtain it, proposed that a treaty should be concluded on the terms of the Peshwa's *propositions*, as stated in my last dispatch.

Meer Fukir-ul-Dien expressed his surprize at a proposal to conclude a treaty on propositions which had been finally rejected and caused me to terminate any negotiations, and told the Minister that the Peshwa's adherence to them left me no longer at liberty to enter into discussions or to receive proposals.

Nana Furnavees did not much press this point, but desired that I would inform your Lordship of the proposal which he had made, to which Fukir-ul-Dien answered that such information was *entirely unnecessary*, the proposition being such as I knew it was your Lordship's determination not to admit.

On my Moonshy's report of the proposal made by the Minister, I directed him in answer to it by a note to Moonshy Gopal Row to remind the Peshwa of the accommodating temper which I had evinced in the whole course of both, as to time and circumstances, in hopes of effecting an

alliance which I knew to be essential to his safety and interests, to inform him, that I was precluded by a knowledge of your Lordship's sentiments and determination on the points which I had already considered, from treating any further on his propositions. But if he wished to convince you of the sincerity of his desire to improve his connection with the Company, I would receive and transmit his proposals under his signature to that effect, but must apprise him that it would be fruitless to offer any conditions which should substantially differ from your Lordship's stipulations in my....

But if the Peshwa was sincerely desirous of engaging in your political views, he would not have disclosed to Sindia the stipulations of the proposed treaty calculated to emancipate him from the usurpations of the Chieftain, whence it may be inferred that he prefers the degrading situation of a mere pageant of state for the aggrandizement of an inferior, to the dignity and independence, for which he must be obliged to the assistance of a powerful ally.

No. 307—The Resident reports Bajirao's renewed proposals for negotiating an alliance with the Company and the part that Sindia was playing in the affairs at Poona.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 14th September 1799.

My Lord,

Notwithstanding the repeated and positive notices which I have given to the Peshwa of the cessation of my negotiations and the reasons of it, he seems to think that he may resume and protract them at his pleasure. On the 10th in the evening Nanæ Furnavees sent for Meer Fukir-ul-Dien, when he again pressed for concluding the treaty, most unaccountably insisting upon our being agreed on the terms, although no concession whatever was offered on the part of the Peshwa from his demands, stated in my address of the 7th instant. The Minister argued that the Peshwa having consented to the exclusion of the enemies of Great Britain from his dominions under such a modification as I had suggested, no difference remained.

Fukir-ul-Dien expressed great surprise at this assertion. He observed to the Minister that the very article just mentioned, had not been adopted by the Peshwa until I had announced the close of the negotiations. That the admission of occasional supplies of arms for the subsidiary troops was still refused, and that I had never consented to the Peshwa's demand of a stipulation to prevent the interference of the Company's officers in

the concerns of the Mahratta Sirdars. From this statement Fukir-ul-Dien said, it was evident that no agreement had taken place, and from the Peshwa's perseverance in his demands it was apparent that he had no intention to form an alliance on your Lordship's proposals, even if the negotiations were still open.

But what was equally extraordinary with this assertion of the Minister, was that all difference in the negotiation was adjusted, his declaration in the name of the Peshwa of his having imparted to Sindia the essential conditions and objects of the treaty, and that his ministers were to attend the Peshwa with their master's final advice upon it the next day, of which I should be duly informed.

From this intimation it appears that the event of the negotiation has, from the first, depended upon Sindia who was obviously interested in defeating the treaty, and that even to this moment of the Peshwa's pressing it to a conclusion, I might be disappointed if I was authorized to comply with his requisition.

Meer Fukir-ul-Dien remarked on this information that it must now be perfectly immaterial to me what might be Sindia's sentiments or advice respecting the treaty, as I was precluded from executing it, and from receiving any proposals except for reference to your Lordship, which I had before informed the Peshwa I was ready to do, provided they were formally authenticated by his signature.

The Minister said, that the Peshwa declined to state any propositions anew, but as I was furnished with those on which he now grounded his hopes of an alliance, he wished me to transmit them to your Lordship. Fukir-ul-Dien replied, that this would be useless and superfluous, as they were already before His Lordship in the course of my correspondence.

Moonshy Gopal Rhow having been present at this meeting, the Minister made no communication but what he had directly in charge from the Peshwa, but he afterwards sent a confidential person to Meer Fukir-ul-Dien, desiring that I might be informed of his extreme concern at the failure of the negotiations, and to assure me that he had laboured to promote its success by every means with his own safety ; but after the Peshwa had faithlessly disclosed to Sindia the conditions of the proposed alliance, it became equally useless to the object dangerous to himself, to oppose the Peshwa's consulting the sentiments of that chieftain, to whose resentment he was already exposed by Bajy Rhow's having betrayed his counsels.

Nana Furnavees further apprized me, by these messages, that although the Peshwa had entirely resigned himself to the influence and discretion of Sindia, nothing can be more certain than that this unprincipled chief will soon divest him entirely of his authority and possessions, his own revenue being inadequate to the subsistence of the numerous troops in his pay, his excessive profusion and the boundless rapacity of his principal

servants. The Minister also informs me that Balloo Tautia is still urgent to form a coalition with him for the purposes of obtaining, by mutual support, such an ascendancy in their respective administrations as may ensure their personal safety, and enable them to avert the ruin which threatens the Mahratta Empire from the incapacity and profligacy of Bajy Row and Sindia. Nana, equally afraid to confide in Tautia, or to exasperate him by rejecting his advances, continues to temporize, but thinks he must come into his views, as his only resource against his impending dangers from the Peshwa and Sindia, for although he suspects that Tautia will no longer observe his engagements than he finds it necessary to do so for his own purposes, Nana's fall will at least be protracted by the connection and time afforded him to consider of other means of security.

It is the opinion of Sheshaudry Pundit that Sindia, as soon as his settlement with the Bhyes is completed, will lead the Peshwa against the Nizam. But however great his rashness and presumption may be, I cannot believe that his ministers will permit him to engage in hostilities against His Highness without ascertaining the perfect neutrality of the Company. Although he has undoubtedly opposed an alliance between this State and the Company, because it is incompatible with his selfish views on the former, I do not imagine that he will take any further measures offensive or injurious to the British Government, unless his apprehensions of its resentment should lead him to seek security in connection with its enemies, and I have little doubt but he would willingly enter into defensive engagements with the Company, if left at liberty to pursue his schemes on this Government. In fact there is no efficient power in the empire but his, and the Peshwa wants either spirit or inclination to contend for his own rightful supremacy.

Sindia's ministers had a long conference with the Peshwa on the 12th at which, as I am informed, a reconciliation between His Highness and Balloo Tautia was one of the subjects discussed, but with what effect I have not yet heard. Nana Furnavees did not assist at the conference, but the Sindian ministry waited upon him after it was ended.

I have the honour to enclose a duplicate of my last address and to be with the highest respect.

No. 308—The Resident is asked to make clear to the Peshwa that the British Govt. was determined not to suffer any violation of its just rights.

FROM—THE MILITARY SECRETARY,

TO—THE RESIDENT, POONA.

Fort St. George, 5th September 1799.

Sir,

I enclose by order of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General, a copy of a letter of this date, written by his Lordship's direction, to the Officer Commanding in Mysore.

Whatever the ultimate arrangement with respect to the reserved districts in Mysore may be, his Lordship considers it absolutely necessary to prove to the Court of Poona that the British Government, although animated by the sincerest desire to cultivate its friendship, is determined not to suffer any violation of its just rights, either on the part of the Peshwa or of any other person.

His Lordship directs that you communicate the substance of the enclosed orders immediately to the Court of Poona, and at the same time express his confidence that the Peshwa will, without loss of time, transmit such orders to Dhoonda Punt Goaklah, and his other officers on the frontier, as may conduce to preserve the good understanding at present subsisting between the two Governments

No. 309—The Commanding Officer in Mysore is directed to move with sufficient force and expel Dhondopant Gokhale, the Mahratta commandant from the territories recently conquered from Tipu

FROM—THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—THE COMMANDING OFFICER, MYSORE.

Fort St. George, 5th September 1799.

Sir,

The Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council having fully considered the situation of public affairs, as they are affected by the position of Dhoonda Punt Ghokla in the district of Soonda, directs me to inform you that his Lordship deems it expedient to remove that chieftain from the district of Soonda, or from any other part of the dominions of the late Tippoo Sultaun

For this purpose the Governor General in Council is desirous that in the first instance the most conciliatory means may be used, and his Lordship accordingly directs you to apprise Doonda Punt Gokla of your desire that he should evacuate the territories of which he has taken possession in violation of the rights of the allies, founded on the conquest of Mysore

But if contrary to his Lordship's expectations, Dhoonda Punt Gokla should persist in maintaining his position, the Governor General in Council directs, that after having allowed him a reasonable time to retire, you move with a sufficient force to expel him, if necessary, from Soonda or any other part of the conquered territories.

I have the honour to be, etc etc

(Signed) J WEBBE,

Secretary to Government.

No. 310—The Resident reports a reconciliation and solemn engagements executed between the Peshwa and Sindia and their Ministers.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17th September 1799.

My Lord,

I have received no communication from this Court since I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 14th instant.

Sindia's ministers have had another conference with the Peshwa at which, as I am informed, a reconciliation was effected between him and Balloo Tautia, and engagements mutually taken for the support of the persons and authority of Baajy Rhow and Doulut Rhow in their respective governments. I am further informed that it was at the same time resolved to invade the dominions of His Highness the Nazim without regarding what conduct the Company's Government may adopt.

I cannot however believe that this rash and hazardous resolution will be carried into execution, nor is the information which I have received of is authentic, though no doubt can be entertained of Sindia's being restrained by fear alone from any act of profitable violence or injustice.

Nana Furnavees and Balloo Tautia have also been reconciled. These amicable engagements have passed under the most solemn and sacred forms of religion, but are generally believed to be mutually insincere, and likely to be violated the moment that either party may suppose it for his advantage.

I have been honored with your Lordship's commands of the 5th instant through your Military Secretary. I immediately made the requisition directed in the most conciliatory terms for the recall of Dhoondia Punt Gokla's troops from the territories of the late Tippoo Sultaun. This was presented to the Peshwa on the 14th, but no answer has yet been made to it.

Ghokla has attacked and routed a large body of the insurgent Dhondia's troops and taken from them five pieces of cannon, three elephants, 200 horses and other considerable booty. The action happened near a place called Deoghur within the Peshwa's dominions, and as Ghokla asserts, was in consequence of General Harris's application to him to join in punishing the rebel and his adherents. He has also brought away the family of Dhondia from the district of Bednore.

I have the honour to enclose a duplicate of my last despatch and to be with the highest respect, &c.

No. 311—This letter contains a weighty pronouncement and a prophecy which soon came true, that owing to dissimulation and treachery Bajirao's power would soon be subverted.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 21st September 1799.

My Lord,

The conferences between the Peshwa and Sindia's Ministers are not yet terminated I am informed that the principal subject of them is the measures to be pursued in consequence of the Peshwa's declining your Lordship's proposals for a new alliance, and that it has been proposed, on the part of Sindia, to detach the Nazim from his connection with the Company, by force or intrigue

I do not entirely rely on this information, but it corresponds with the sentiments and observations which Gunpat Roy yesterday communicated to me by express direction of Bhow Buckshy The Bhow desired him to enquire of me whether I had come to an agreement with the Peshwa. When I expressed my surprize at such a question from Bhow Buckshy, who has assisted at all the deliberations of the two Durbars on the propositions submitted to Sindia by the Peshwa, Gunput Roy observed that this was true, but Sindia's ministers might not know whether the Peshwa had adopted their advice, or not He then said, the Bhow was surprized that I, who had so long experience of the disposition, habits and principles of the Maharatta Government, could suppose that proposals of the nature which I had tendered, would be accepted, and desired to know what were our objects in proposing to furnish the Peshwa with six regiments of the Company's troops, in offering to mediate the differences between this Court and Hyderabad, in desiring to commute the Choute of Surat, and in requiring the dismissal of the French engaged in Sindia's service long before the war between that nation and the English took place. He observed, that this state was sincerely disposed to maintain its existing connections with the Company's, had no predilection for the French, nor any intention to embrace the cause of that nation, but, on the contrary, was inclined to co-operate with us in opposing any attempt which it might make to invade these countries Where then (he asked) is the necessity of new engagements and of a tendency to encroach upon the independence of this Empire He added that the Company's Government could not justly take offence at the rejection of propositions which this State considered as incompatible with its dignity, interests and independence But if contrary to expectation such should be the case, it would be obliged to publish the propositions in its own justification

I listened to this discourse with astonishment, but before I made any answer to it, I desired to know whether I was to regard it as the declaration

of Sindia or his ministers, or as the mere effusions of Bhow Buckshy's own opinions and feelings. Gunput Roy said, it was entirely the latter, and meant only as an individual and friendly communication.

I observed, that having made no propositions from your Lordship to Sindia, nor having had any communication whatever with him or his servants on the subject of my late negociations with the Peshwa, they could have no right to demand explanations of me. But I was willing the Bhow should be informed, that your Lordship's views in the alliance were directed to the very opposite objects to those which he insinuated, and your proposal was obviously calculated to restore the dignity and efficacy of this Government, as well as to place it in a condition to fulfil any defensive engagement with us, and thereby to secure the general tranquillity of India, purposes to which recent experience had shown it to be inadequate in its present circumstances. I observed, that the Bhow's inferences and suspicions were equally unfounded and disrespectful to your Lordship. With respect to your displeasure or resentment at the failure of the negotiation of which the Bhow seemed to be apprehensive, not the smallest intimation had been given. But I wished the manifesto which he spoke of publishing, should appear, as it could not fail to produce the clearest evidence of your Lordship's candid proceeding and generous intentions towards the Peshwa and the Maratta Empire at large, and the exposure of Sindia's real views in opposing the alliance.

Whether this extraordinary communication has been made with or without the participation of Sindia or his ministers, it probably accords with their general sentiments. The immediate object in making it, is, I conceive, to discover what effect Sindia's opposition to the treaty is likely to produce on your Lordship's mind and resolutions.

I learn from Gunput Roy that the Peshwa had concealed from Sindia his having acceded to any one article of the propositions, by which it seems that he had had no other intention in bringing the negotiation apparently forward; than to avoid giving disgust by a refusal to treat, and to conciliate Sindia by the sacrifice of the Company's alliance to a dependance on his friendship and support, and perhaps, to intimidate him by showing him the resource to which he can apply against any oppressive use of his power. The deep dissimulation and treachery of which Baajy Rhow is capable, makes unsafe to trust him in any important transaction, and has destroyed all confidence in him from those with whom he is most essentially connected. The consequence is that all are interested in preventing the accession of power to so dangerous a character, and his authority will always remain circumscribed, or what is more probable, will soon be totally subverted.

A sense of immediate danger or a concurrence in some particular interest, may induce a temporary accommodation and concert between the Peshwa and Sindia, but I see little to be apprehended from this union in their

present circumstances, and neither their characters nor respective views admit of its being permanent. Nana Furnavees strongly dissuades them on motives of policy from engaging in any measures which may involve them in a quarrel with the Company, reminding them of the unfavourable issue of the last contest and the immense sums which were expended in it, and desiring them to consider whether they could provide funds for the support of another war with so formidable an enemy

I cannot myself be persuaded that they will attack the Nazim, without being certain of our neutrality. But should they really intend it, they are not prepared for the enterprize, and His Highness will have sufficient leisure to provide effectual resistance to it.

No. 312—Palmer sends news to the G. G. about various topics from the Peshwa's Court including the present projects of the Peshwa and Sindia

FROM—THE RESIDENT, POONA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 24th September 1799

My Lord,

It is reported in this city that the insurgent Dhoondia Khan (Wagh), having eluded the pursuit of our troops, has taken refuge with the Rajah of Panala (or Khoulapore) I have made requisition to the Peshwa for the surrender of the person of this rebel, and have taken this occasion of fresh aggression on the part of the Rajah towards the Company, to call upon the Peshwa for the performance of an engagement which he entered into with Sir Charles Malet some years ago, to procure satisfaction for repeated acts of piracy committed by the Rajah on the trade of Bombay, and for which that Government was prepared to exact reparation, but refrained from hostilities in consequence of the Peshwa's interposition to the effect above stated

At the same time Sindia gave a similar promise to prevent our enforcing redress from the Sawunt Warree Chief Mr Duncan has suggested to me that the present situation of his government is favourable to the prosecution of the design, to obtain justice from those piratical states by arms, if the Peshwa and Sindia are unable, or disinclined, to fulfil their engagement

I am certain that the Peshwa's authority over the Rajah of Kolahpore is incompetent to the object which he has guaranteed to us, and as he will endeavour to defeat, or protract, our attainment of it by promises, I shall request of the Bombay Government to prescribe a specific period for its own forbearance.

Intelligence arrived yesterday at the Peshwa's Durbar from the camp of Pursaram Bhow, of that Chieftain having been totally defeated, his two sons taken prisoner in an action with the above mentioned Rajah of Koulapore, which lasted the whole day.

The Peshwa assures me, that repeated orders have been dispatched to Dhoondia Punt Ghokla to recall his troops from the territories of the late Tippoo Suldaun.

The Peshwa has formally applied to Sindia to assist him in restoring order and tranquillity in his government, preparatory to their adopting such measures as may be expedient with regard to foreign states. But there is little appearance that this object will be soon accomplished, and Sindia will find it difficult to compose the distractions in his own government, caused by the opposition of Ambajee to the administration of Balloo Tautia.

No. 313—The Resident reports the result of his Munshi's interview with Nana Fadnis on the subject of redress being demanded from the Raja of Kolhapur.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 28th September 1799.

My Lord,

In consequence of my reminding the Peshwa of his engagement to procure satisfaction from the Rajah of Khoulapore for his depredations on the trade of Bombay, under the Company's license, established by treaty, the Minister sent for Meer Fukir-ul-Dien on the 26th and desired him to inform me, that this government, in concert with Sindia, was preparing to detach a force against the Rajah in order to punish him for the murder of Pursaram Bhow, and other atrocious proceedings in violation of the Peshwa's authority, and the tranquillity of the country, and that when he should be brought under subjection, the Peshwa would secure the claims of the Bombay Government upon him.

As I had apprehended a procrastinating, or evasive answer, I instructed Fukir-ul-Dien, in that case, to ask the Minister whether the Peshwa would give a formal obligation under his signature to procure the reparation required, within a specific period. Nana Furnavees said, he was not authorised to answer this requisition, but would mention it to the Peshwa. I do not expect that it will be complied with, but have requested of Mr. Duncan to inform me what time he is willing to allow for the

adjustment of the claims in question, if the Peshwa should agree to my proposal, at the same time giving him my opinion of the little probability of his obtaining substantial redress, except by arms

I have also called upon Doulut Row Sindia to fulfil his engagements to a similar effect respecting the Rajah of Sawuntwadi. His answer is as satisfactory as could be expected. He observes, that this engagement was given by his predecessor, and that no demand has, until now, been made upon him to carry it into execution. He is ready to discharge his obligation in good faith whenever the Bombay Government will furnish him with a statement of its claims, and as the Rajah is his relation, requests, that hostilities may not be employed against him

The cordiality lately established between the two Durbars, has not hitherto been productive of any appearances preparatory to domestic arrangement or foreign enterprize, as reported to have been determined in consequence of it. It is supposed, that no measure of importance will be attempted until Sindia's family differences are entirely composed by the return of the Bhyes, which is expected in the course of a few days, as a deputation from Sindia has set out to conduct those ladies to an interview with him

No. 314—The Resident reports the Peshwa and Sindia having sent a joint expedition against the Raja of Kolhapur to avenge the death of Parashuram Bhau.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 1st October 1799.

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 28th ultimo, I have not received any communication from the Durbar, in answer to my requisition of a formal engagement from the Peshwa, to secure to the Bonibay Government the reparation demanded for the depredations committed by the Rajah of Khoulapore on the trade of that island. He is, however, equally bound to procure this satisfaction by his former verbal promise and recent confirmation of it.

Both the Peshwa and Sindia appear to have seriously determined on reducing this Rajah, a force of 4,000 horse and foot being appointed by the Peshwa, and of five Battalions with artillery by Sindia, to proceed on this service, and they have requested of the Nazim to assist in it with a body of his troops.

I am not able to ascertain the truth of the report of Dhoondia, the Mysore rebel, having taken refuge with the Rajah of Khoulapore, or with Dhondia Punt Ghoulka as other accounts mention, and this Durbar denies having received any intelligence on the subject.

No. 315—The Resident reports that the restless propensity of Bajirao to deceive and betray, has deprived him of the confidence, affection, esteem and attachment of every individual and his ruin will be the inevitable result.

FROM—COL. PALMER,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 4th October 1799.

My Lord,

The reconciliation which has recently taken place between the governments of the Paishwa and Sindia, has not yet been productive of any public measures. But a discovery has already been made of Baajy Rhaw's insincerity in this transaction. He sent Balloo Khoonjer secretly to warn Sindia of the danger which threatens them from the coalition between Nana Furnavees and Balloo Tautia, whose united power, he said, would be employed to subvert both their authorities. He therefore advised Sindia to secure the persons of these Ministers as soon as he should have availed himself of the influence of the latter to compose the dissensions in his family.

Sindia (on what motive it is not easy to discover) revealed this advice to Tautia, who having remonstrated with the Paishwa on his duplicity, he positively disavowed Balloo Khoonjer, and told Tautia that he might punish him as he thought proper for this injurious and unauthorized proceeding. When this man expostulated with the Paishwa for thus unjustly exposing him to the vengeance of Tautia, Baajy Rhaw told him that it was of no consequence to him, as he was already involved in his fate, and had no other reliance for his safety but upon his power to protect him.

The restless propensity of Bajy Rao to deceive and betray, has deprived him of the confidence, affection, esteem and attachment of every individual, and his ruin will be the inevitable result.

It is, perhaps, from apprehension that this discovery of his treachery will strengthen the connection between the two Ministers, that he at this time has renewed his protestations of inviolable attachment to, and unbounded confidence in Nana Furnavees, declaring that he considers their interests as inseparable, and even offering to put Nana in possession of some strong fortresses, as a proof of his sincerity. He has made

Emrut Rhow the witness and the guarantee of these professions, but he has too invariably dissembled to be any longer capable of deceiving.

In the persuasion, that the temporary influence which the Paishwa may find it convenient to allow to Nana, is the most favourable season for obtaining permission to establish a regular Dawk communication with our new acquisitions in Mysore and on the Malabar Coast, as your Lordship desires, I shall make immediate application to that effect

Although Dowlut Rhow Sindia has transmitted to the Byes sunnuds to give them possession of the fort of Aseer, with a Jaghire annexed, those ladies still decline an interview with him, and his deputies have desired to be recalled. He continues to urge the meeting with a solicitude which only serves to increase their suspicion of his intentions in it.

The Rajah of Khoulapore is considered as in open rebellion, and the Peshwa has directed Dhoondia Punt Ghokla to join the sons of Pursaram Bhow in opposing him until a force can be detached to reduce him effectually. This object, however, is not likely to be soon attained in the present divided state of the strength and authority of this Empire.

No. 316—The Resident reports a renewal of fighting between Sindia and the Bais.

FROM—THE RESIDENT, POONA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 11th October 1799.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's dispatch of the 16th ultimo. I lost no time in making the communications directed to the Paishwa, expressing at the same time my wishes to be instrumental in my station towards promoting the friendly sentiments and views which your Lordship entertains towards His Highness and Mahratta Empire. Moonshy Gopal Rhow, in answer to my note, has informed me, that the Minister will desire the attendance of my Moonshy in the course of two or three days.

I conjecture from this desire of an interview with my Moonshy, that the Paishwa wishes to enter into some discussion connected with the rupture of our late negotiations, probably with a design to ascertain the degree of protection which the Company will afford to the Nazim, if this State should attempt to enforce its claims on His Highness by arms. I do not apprehend that any pretence will be offered of a right to interrupt the assumption by the Company and Nazim, of the territory provisionally reserved for the

Paishwa's share, or to disturb the possessions of the Rajah of Mysore. And I have no doubt but strong professions will be made of a sincere disposition to maintain existing engagements with the Company ; and, in fact, I cannot suppose that in the present high state of our government for strength and respectability, that even the descent of a French force on the Malabar Coast, would encourage the Paishwa or Sindea to depart from their neutrality, although it is probable that they regard the increase of our power with some jealousy and distrust.

I believe that this Court will endeavour to recover its ascendancy over that of Hyderabad by infusing suspicions of our power and designs, and exciting the pride of the Nabob for his dignity and independence. But I do not think it will attempt to subject His Highness to its views by force, unless it can detach him from his present intimate connection with us.

An event has taken place which will greatly protract, if not entirely defeat, the completion of the accommodation concluded between Sindia and the Bhyes. A detachment from one of the regular Brigades was some time since sent out to chastize a partizan of those ladies, who had separated from their camp, and committed great depredations in the Paishwa's and Sindia's dependencies. This man retreated into the Nazim's dominions where he continued his ravages, but being repulsed by His Highness's troops he returned, and was proceeding to join the army of the Bhyes in consequence of the amnesty which had been granted to their adherents, when the party in search of him came up, attacked, and totally defeated him. As this action happened within two or three coss of the Bhye's camp, those ladies suspected treachery, and instantly fled to Ahmednagar at the distance of 40 coss. The whole body of their troops has surrounded the detachment above mentioned and deprived it of all subsistence. Sindia has sent another deputation to reassure the Bhyes and money to pacify their troops, but as it is probable that the Commanding Officer of the Brigade has reinforced his detachment, the most serious consequences are apprehended, and it is the general belief that these distractions will terminate in the entire ruin of one of the parties. Force is on the side of Sindia, but opinion is against him.

No. 317—Col. Palmer informs the G. G. of the growing tension between Sindia and his ladies.

FROM—THE RESIDENT, POONA,
TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th October 1799.

My Lord,

Since my last address, I have made several attempts to obtain answers from the Paishwa to the communications made to him from your

Lordship's commands to me of the 16th ultimo, and to my application for permission to establish regular Dawks between Poona and the Company's newly acquired possessions in Mysore, but have received only promises from day to day without any reason assigned for the delay. Nor can I discover any other cause for procrastination than the unsettled state of Sindia's family contest, and frequent consultations between the two Durbars.

The Paishwa has certain information of the rebel Dhoondia Waag having taken refuge with the Rajah of Khoulapore. I have in consequence repeated my requisition for the surrender of that offender to the Commanding Officer in Mysore. But the Paishwa asserts, that the Rajah being in open rebellion, an order to that effect would only expose his authority to contempt, that he is preparing to reduce that Chieftain to obedience by force, and by this means only the surrender of Dhoondia can be obtained.

Sindia's deputies to the Byes have prevented further hostilities between the troops in the service of these ladies and a detachment of Sindia's Infantry. But the final adjustment of their differences is still protracted by Sindia's refusal to put the Byes in possession of Asseergur before an interview takes place, and their reluctance to meet him without this security. Those persons who have an intimate knowledge of the divisions and contending interests in Sindia's councils, think it yet very problematical how this dispute will terminate. It is evidently for the advantage of Balloo Tautia that a reconciliation should take place, and he earnestly labours to accomplish it, but is opposed or counteracted by secret advisers. And it is supposed that Sindia himself is actuated by distrust of Tautia, and by implacable resentment against the Bhyes and their adherents, to dissemble for the purpose of getting them into his power, and wreaking his vengeance upon them.

No. 318—The Resident reports plans formed by Nana Fadnis and Baloba Tatyia to depose Bajirao and place Chimna Appa on the musnad. Bajirao, he adds, can neither avert nor resist his ruin.

FROM—THE RESIDENT AT POONA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 25th October 1799.

My Lord,

I have not yet been able to obtain any communication from the Durbar on the subject of your Lordship's commands to me, in consequence of the failure of my late negotiation. I understand that the delay has arisen

from the desire of conferring with Balloo Tautia who has been entirely occupied in adjusting the remaining differences in Sindia's family. He, however, had interviews with the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees on the 23rd, and the Minister yesterday signified to me his wish that Meer Fukir-ul-Dien might attend him whenever he might send for him. To which I assented of course.

I am credibly informed, that Nana Furnavees and Balloo Tautia have confederated to depose Baajy Rhow and place Chimna Appa upon the Musnud. The concurrence of Sindia to this revolution is indispensable, but whether it has yet been obtained I do not learn. The design is said to have extended to the deposal of Dowlut Rhow, but observing the fidelity and attachment of the commanders of the regular infantry to their sovereign, it has been abandoned or suspended.

The principal object of the two Ministers in this confederacy is to establish and perpetuate an uncontrollable power in their respective administrations. Sindia's acquiescence will be induced by the promise of instant relief to his pecuniary necessities.

If the desire of the immediate advantages proposed by this combination is powerful enough to stifle the mutual animosity and distrust of the parties, of which I am very doubtful, Baajy Rhow can neither resist nor avert his ruin; he has no force, and his character and conduct have so entirely deprived him of esteem and attachment, that no person feels sufficient concern for him to apprise him of his danger.

I do not suppose that Nana Furnavees will disclose to me a project of so delicate and unjustifiable a nature, although he will probably explain his connection with Tautia, if it has actually taken place, by the necessity of providing for his personal safety against the designs of both Baajy Rhow and Sindia. Should he, however, proceed to a further discovery of his intention, I shall pay the strictest observance to your Lordship's injunctions to refrain from all interference in the views and intrigues of the two Durbars regarding each other, and have accordingly directed my Moonshy to make no answers to any queries or observations on any communication which may relate to a revolution in either government.

The Resident at Hyderabad having furnished me with a copy of a letter written by Col. Wellesley, Commanding in Mysore, to the Adjutant General, stating the intrusion of a Mahratta force by the Killadar of Darwar into the Bednore district, its further aggression by firing on our troops, and its consequent expulsion by force, I have communicated these circumstances to the Paishwa, representing, at the same time, that the friendship and good understanding which subsist between him and the Company are exposed to interruption by such unwarrantable proceedings in the officers of his government. To this communication Munshi Gopal Rao has assured that the Peshwa will restrain his officers from similar offences in future.

It appears by the return of Mr Hessing, one of Sindia's deputies to the Bhyes, that the only point remaining to complete the reconciliation with those ladies and their adherents is the supply of a month's pay to their troops. Notwithstanding Sindia's great distrust of Ballo Tautia, he has been obliged by the embarrassment of his affairs to invest that Minister with very ample authority, no other person being so capable of providing for the exigencies of his government. Tautia has obtained the removal of Babu Rao Angria, whose relationship of maternal uncle to Sindia giving him great influence and constant private access to employ it, he has hitherto been the chief obstacle to Tautia's power and views. Babu Rao has been civilly dismissed to his independent chiefship of Colaba, but has not yet taken his departure.

No. 319—The Resident is informed by the G. G. of the appointment of Capt. Malcolm as the Company's envoy to the Court of Persia.

FROM—THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 15th October 1799.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council to acquaint you, that he has appointed Captain Malcolm to be envoy from the Government General in India to the Court of Baba Khan, the present King of Persia.

The Hon'ble the Governor in Council at Bombay has been requested to transmit to Captain Malcolm, by every opportunity whatever, information he may receive respecting the design or motions of Zemaun Shah; and his Lordship in Council particularly desires that you will correspond punctually with the Governor of Bombay on the subject of the design and motions of that Prince.

No. 320—Intimation is given of the appointment of Col. Close as Resident at Mysore.

FROM—THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 19th October 1799.

Sir,

The Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council having appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Close Resident at Mysore, and considering it to be of great importance that he should be regularly apprized of all material transactions at the Court of Poona, I am directed to desire that you will correspond with Lieutenant-Colonel Close for this purpose. Similar instructions have been sent to Lieutenant-Colonel Close to communicate to you, from time to time, all occurrences in Mysore, the knowledge of which may be useful to you in your situation.

No. 321—Palmer intimates to the Secretary to Government his readiness to communicate all necessary news to Lt.-Col. Close, recently appointed Resident at Mysore.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE SECRETARY AT FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 11th November 1799.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo, and in obedience to the commands of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council therein signified, I shall constantly and regularly advise Lieutenant-Colonel Close, the Resident at Mysore, of every transaction at this Court, of which the knowledge may be useful to the interest with which he is charged.

I transmit, herewith, a duplicate of my dispatch of the 8th instant to His Lordship the Governor General.

No. 322—The G. G. instructs the Resident what reply to give about the presence of British troops in the territory of Soonda. The Resident is also instructed to take no part in the Peshwa's measures against Kolhapur.

FROM—EARL MORNINGTON,
TO—THE RESIDENT AT POONA.

Fort William, 23rd October 1799.

Sir,

I have received from Fort St. George a copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding in Mysore, dated the 30th ultimo (and of which, I understand, a copy has likewise been transmitted for your information) giving an account of an engagement which had taken place on the 29th of September between a detachment of the British army in Soondah and a party of armed men who opposed the Company's troops into Somarahanee, a village dependent on Soondah.

These armed men are stated to have belonged to Baboojee Sindia, the Killadar of Dharwar, but the fact not appearing to be clearly ascertained as to prevent all doubt of its authenticity, it is possible they may have been merely a Banditti, availing themselves of the unsettled state of the country.

We are sufficiently warranted both by the tenor of the orders long since transmitted by the Paishwa at your instance to his Officers commanding on the frontier of Mysore and by the communications of those officers themselves, to assume that this armed party could not consist of subjects of the Mahratta Empire, regularly authorized to resist the presence of the British troops into a place rightfully belonging to the Company, and to their ally the Nizam.

Upon this principle no explanation of the transaction is due to the Court of Poona, unless that Court recognizing the aggressions, should require it. I shall therefore be glad to learn that you have refrained from making any communication on the subject to the Paishwa unless in the case of his having complained of the occurrence, when you would have demonstrated that the Company, and not the Mahratta Government, had been the injured party. I accordingly desire that you will urge this argument in the event of any attempt on the part of the Paishwa to put a sinister construction on the occurrence in question.

In the present disposition of the Court of Poona and of Dowlut Rao Sindia, it does not appear to me expedient to adopt any measures which can have a tendency to promote the success of their supposed design against the Rajah of Koulapore, whatever grounds of complaint, therefore we may have against that Rajah, I do not think the present a proper period for urging them, or for seeking satisfaction. If it be not our interest that this Chief should be subdued by the Paishwa and Sindia, it cannot be advisable that we should in any way embarrass or weaken his means of resistance against them.

SECTION 5

*Death of Nana Fadnis,—Bajirao and
Sindia at wits' end*

(Jan.—Oct. 1800)

No. 323—The Resident reports the arrival of a letter from His Majesty of Britain to be presented to the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 3rd January 1800

No transaction of importance has occurred in this State since I had the honour to address your Lordship last. The increasing distress of Sindia's cavalry occasioned by the long arrears of pay due to them occupies the constant attention of his Ministers, and seems to have suspended the plans and hostile projects of contending factions. It has been resolved in consultation and solemnly ratified by the form of the principal ministers laying their hands on the musnud to compel this branch of the army not only to submit to a reduction in their numbers and pay, but to accept of a compromise for their arrears. But it is not yet ascertained by what means money can be raised sufficient for carrying even this expedient into effect.

His Majesty's letter to the Paishwa arrived here on the 31st last, in charge of Mr. Lovett and Captain Moor, accompanied by Colonel and Lord George Beauford. I gave the Minister immediate notice,

of its arrival and requested, that the Paishwa would appoint a day for my attendance to present it in form, and intimating that I expected its reception should be attended with ceremonies and respect suitable to His Majesty's dignity. Yesterday morning I received notice in answer, that the Paishwa desired that presentation might be made this evening. Upon enquiring of the messenger with what honours and ceremonials the Paishwa intended to receive the King's letter, I learned that he had made no other arrangement on the occasion than that of appointing a person of distinction to meet me on my way to the palace. I immediately informed the Minister, that I considered so slight a mark of attention as exceedingly disrespectful to His Majesty, and by no means consistent with the comparative situations of the Paishwa and the sovereign of the British Empire. But as it was not my wish to exact from the Paishwa any complimentary concession incompatible with his dignity as an independent prince, I would consent to his reception of His Majesty's letter with such honours as had been paid by the Nabob of Arcot on a similar occasion. I believe, however, that the letter to the Nabob, from which I take the precedent, was from the Company. I have not yet received an answer to this proposal, but am apprehensive that it will not be accepted, as the Paishwa entertains very extravagant notions of his rank and importance in the scale of sovereignty. I have endeavoured to fulfil the very general instruction from the Company which accompanied His Majesty's letter "to deliver it in a manner suitable to the occasion," but shall not conceive myself justifiable in withholding it, or in detaining it, longer than while I have some expectation of my requisition being complied with.

No copy of His Majesty's letter, nor any information of the contents, has been transmitted to Bombay.

No. 324—The Resident reports the fears entertained by Nana Fadnis of being assassinated and refers to his indifferent health. He also reports the secret enmity of the Marathas towards the Company.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 17th January 1800.

My Lord,

No apparent change has taken place since my last address in the views or influence of the contending parties in this state. In Sindia's government the faction to which he secretly gives his countenance and

confidence, is so low in reputation both for principles and abilities, and the consequences of its power so much dreaded by the European Commanders in his service, who appear to be sincerely attached to his person and authority, that it is probable he will not be able to resist the united efforts of those officers and Balloo Tautia to suppress it.

The mutual distrust of the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees seems to increase. The Minister has not appeared at the Durbar for a considerable time past, indisposition has been his pretext for absence, but I am informed that his real motive is the apprehension of being assassinated. Of the Paishwa's suspicions of Nana, your Lordship will have seen a proof in the dispatch of the Resident at Hyderabad of the 3rd instant, as communicated by the Minister.

It is difficult to conceive with what view the Paishwa should have made propositions of the nature stated in Moonshy Azeez-Oollah's report, under the knowledge which he certainly possesses of Azim-ul-Omrah's attachment to the Company, and connection with Nana Furnavees. In that proposition which is made to provide against a rupture with the Company, his design is probably no more than to render Azim-ul-Omrah suspected by your Lordship from the appearance of confidential communication with him. But if he seriously meditates a rupture with our government, as his message intimates such an intention, in the miserable condition to which this empire is reduced, it can only expose him to contempt and ridicule.

I have, indeed, no doubt, but the secret enmity and resentment of Baajy Rhow and Sindia, and perhaps of every other great member of the Maharatta Government is excited against us by our successes in war, and powerful alliances which have barred nearly every avenue to the systematic aggrandisement of this Empire by unprovoked invasion and depredation, but I have little apprehension that the means of gratifying those passions will occur under the present weak administration of the state, and a wiser government would sacrifice them to a peaceable or secure enjoyment of its own possession rather than risk the consequence of war with powers so formidable as the Company and its allies.

The detachment of Sindia's army in Kolahpur is in the same position as I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my last address, without having made any further attempt to bring the Raja's troops to action, although it has been joined by Ramchandra Parsuram with about 2,000 horse.

Bhow Buckshy has set out on his deputation to the Byes, an attempt has been made to assassinate those ladies in the night in which one of them was wounded. The assassin was apprehended who charges S. Ghatky with having instigated him to commit this crime.

No. 325—The Resident explains why he did not obtain the G. G.'s previous orders on the subject of delivering His Majesty's letter to the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE SECRETARY IN THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AT FORT WILLIAM.

Poona, 26th January 1800.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant. It gives me great concern that the delivery of His Majesty's letter to the Paishwa without reference to the Governor General has incurred his Lordship's disapprobation. Not only motives of duty and respect, but a wish to be exonerated from responsibility in a transaction which I was to conduct without either experience, precedent, or particular instructions, would have induced me to refer to his Lordship's authority, had I supposed that such a discretion was left to me. But I considered my functions in the proceeding as merely ministerial, and that it would have been presumption in me to question the propriety of the mode adopted by my superiors of transmitting His Majesty's letter to the Paishwa, although it certainly did occur to me, as both regular and expedient, that the Governor General should have been previously advised of it, that his pleasure might have been known as to the time and ceremony of its presentation.

It is highly satisfactory to me that His Lordship has been pleased to establish a rule of proceeding on future similar occasions.

No. 326—The Peshwa and Sindia, reports the Resident to the G. G., continue to keep Nana and Tatia in nominal authority, but they do not give their willing support to the measures suggested by these ministers.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 14th February 1800.

My Lord,

Since my last address, no alteration has appeared in the situation or views of the rival factions in the Paishwa's or Sindia's governments.

Nana Furnavees and Balloo Tautia notwithstanding the distrust entertained of them by their respective sovereigns, seem to possess a degree of authority or influence adequate to the exercise of the ordinary functions of their offices, with some advantage to the state. The submission and order which at present prevail in both governments, and which are so unusual in circumstances of pecuniary distress and public distractions, may be ascribed to the general opinion of the comparative superiority of those ministers to their opponents in point of character and abilities, but whether this opinion will be left to operate its natural effect of strengthening the authority of Nana and Tautia, or be interrupted by violence, will depend upon the disposition of the commanding officers of Sindia's Brigades to continue their protection to Tautia or not. I am of opinion that they will continue it to the extent of maintaining him in authority and of giving countenance to such of his measures, as may be evidently for the advantage of the state, and with this degree of support he may gradually establish his power

Although I am induced by the present aspect of affairs to draw the inferences above stated, nothing like certainty can be assumed from any given appearances, where the result depends upon persons so unsteady and unprincipled as the present competitors for power to this state.

Sindia's troops have been successful in two actions against the Rajah of Koulapore, and having compelled him to retire for safety to the inaccessible fort of Punala, have commenced the siege of the town of Koulapore. Sindia in advising me of these successes through Gunput Roy, intimated that a Vakeel from the Rajah is now at Bombay for the express purpose of adjusting the Company's demands upon him. As this message appeared to me to be calculated to evade the responsibility of the Paishwa, which Sindia apprehends will devolve on him by his conquest of the country, I have reminded him of the statement which I gave him of the Company's claim before he commenced his expedition, as affected by the interposition of the Paishwa, and of his own answer to it, observing at the same time that it was absurd to expect that the Rajah could satisfy our demands after his country was taken from him, but that in any event the Paishwa was answerable for them to the Company. I have also on this occasion reminded the Paishwa of his repeated promises to secure the just demands of the Company on the Rajah, and stated the probability of his being now required to fulfil them, no answer is yet returned to either of those intimations; but I shall not urge the matter beyond the reservation of our claim upon the Paishwa's security until I receive instructions from His Lordship for my further proceeding

Dowlut Rhow still hesitates to fulfil his engagements to the Bhyes, though I understand, that he offers to execute every other stipulation in their favour if they will relinquish that for giving them the possession

of the Fort of Asirgarh, and that he has represented the diminution of his authority and the danger to the tranquillity of the country, which follow this cession, in so strong a light to the guarantees treating that they have undertaken to be his advocates with the Byes to renounce it.

No. 327—The Resident reports the distressing condition of Sindian troops on account of want of funds. He also reports Nana Fadnis's disavowal of supporting the claims of Yashodabai to adopt a son.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 21st February 1800.

My Lord,

The affairs of these governments remain apparently in the same state as described in my last address and it is impossible to foresee to what period the disorders in both will be protracted, or how they will terminate. The attention of Sindia's minister is engrossed by the importunate demands of the troops for their arrears; but he receives no support or encouragement from his master in his proposal to levy contributions on the Sirdars, which is the only expedient that can be devised for an immediate supply of money sufficient for the occasion. Sindia seems to be equally regardless of the distresses of his army, and of the consequences to himself. But the former will soon compel him to adopt Tautia's suggestion, or to repeat the violences and extortions which were two years ago practised through the agency of Sirjajee Gautky, on the inhabitants of Poona.

An interview has taken place between the Paishwa and Balloo Tautia by the desire of the former, whose purpose in it was, as I am informed, to learn the objects of the coalition between Tautia and Nana Furnavees, especially as they might effect his person and authority. Tautia gave an answer calculated to calm his apprehensions, and as the Paishwa must have expected declarations of that tendency, whether sincere or not, I cannot perceive what advantage he could propose to himself from the explanation.

Baajy Rhaw has also lately required of Nana a disavowal, on oath, of all intention to excite the widow of the late Paishwa to adopt a son. This assurance Nana has hitherto declined or evaded to give. And as the lady is in Baajy Rhaw's custody, his precaution seems to be superfluous.

But his motive for the requisition is probably to establish against the Minister the charge of such a design.

The Rajah of Colhapore's Vakeel at the Paishwa's Durbar visited me two days ago, in consequence of intimation from Nana Furnavees of the Paishwa having engaged to secure the just demands of the Company on the Rajah, and of the Paishwa's consequent intention to make provision for this engagement in any accommodation which may take place. The object of the Vakeel's visit was to obtain my consent to withdrawing the Paishwa's interference on a proposal of the Rajah's deputing a person to Bombay, fully empowered to make a final adjustment with that government. As I am convinced that whether the Paishwa enforces our claims on the Rajah or not, he would not leave him in a condition either to discharge them himself, or of contributing to the object which your Lordship has in view in forbearing to press the Rajah, and as the Vakeel's proposal seemed to be framed merely for the purpose of procrastination and evasion, I told him that I had no authority to relinquish the security afforded by the Paishwa's responsibility, but that, there could be no objection to the Rajah's endeavouring to obviate the effects of it by treating with the Government of Bombay direct, for which I thought there would be sufficient time before his differences with this Court would be concluded.

The Vakeel informed me, that orders have been dispatched by the Paishwa and Sindia to their commanders in Colhapore, to suspend hostilities against the Rajah, in consequence of terms proposed by him for an accommodation.

I learn that Gobind Row Guicwar is dangerously ill, that violent dissensions subsist among his principal servants, and that disturbances prevail in the city of Baroda, to such a degree, as to have occasioned the shutting up of the shops; but whether these commotions are caused by the prospect of the Rajah's demise and a contested succession, or are the effect of long enmity and opposition of interests between Rowjee Appajee, the Dewan, and Mangul Paruck, the Rajah's companion and favourite, does not appear.

If a competition for the Raaj should arise on the decease of Gobind Row, it will be confined to two of his sons, the eldest and the youngest, two other sons intervene, but are ineligible to the Raaj by inferiority of birth on the mother's side. The eldest son is deranged in his intellects, but has intervals of reason. The youngest son is a boy of about 8 years of age; he resides within 10 coss of Poona, under the guardianship of his mother. His person being thus subjected to the power of the Paishwa, and his youth being favourable to the interested views by which the conduct of this Court is invariably guided, there can be little doubt that all its authority and power will be exerted to place this youth on the

Musnud in preference to his eldest brother. What means the latter possesses of defending his right, I will endeavour to learn. If the treasurer of his father should fall into his hands, and his cause should be supported by leaders of ability, he may make a successful resistance to the attempts of this Government to set him aside.

I am informed that an emissary from Mysore arrived some days ago in this city, and is secreted in the Paishwa's house. By whom, or for what purpose he is sent, my informant is not yet able to discover. But admitting the fact, there can be little doubt of the object of such an agency being to disturb the possessions of the Company or the Nazim in that quarter. And I fear that the disposition of Baajy Row to promote that object, is as little to be doubted, though I do not comprehend by what means he can essentially assist in such a scheme, and every motive of justice, gratitude, and even his interest, if he understood it, ought to deter him from engaging in it.

The force of His Highness the Nazim, which was lately recalled from the station which it so long occupied near the Mahratta eastern frontier, is now remanded to it, at the instance of Nana Furnavees.

No. 328—The Resident communicates a secret move on the part of the Peshwa to instigate the Nizam to rise against the power of the Co. He, however, adds there was not the smallest prospect of such a move being successful.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 28th February 1800.

My Lord,

From the frequent consultations which Doulut Rhow Sindia holds with Balloo Tautia and Dhoondaba, and the frequent conferences of those Ministers with the Paishwa and Nana Furnavees, it might be concluded that some determinate measures for speedily healing the long existing disorders of this State, are under serious deliberation. But experience has so often shown similar appearances to be fallacious, that no certain conclusion can be drawn from these premises. The great objects said to be in contemplation are the return of Sindia to Hindostan, and the firm and efficient establishment of Nana and Tautia in their respective administrations. The latter object, indeed, seems to be a necessary consequence of the former, as Tautia's power would be supported

in Hindostan by the attachment of Lacawa Dada; and as it may be supposed that Nana, who is required to assist Sindia with money to enable him to march will not disburse it, without previously attaining his own views. Those objects, however, are strenuously opposed by the rival factions at both Durbars and by the secret inclinations of Baajy Rhow and Sindia, although the latter has recently assured Tautia of his sincere disposition to be guided by his advice. This Minister and his brother are, as I am informed, to attend the Paishwa and Nana immediately for the declared purpose of finally adjusting their plans.

I am informed that a person named Hurry Pundit (Vaidya) who had lately occasion to repair to Hyderabad on some concerns of the family of the late Govind Pingleh, was privately instructed by the Paishwa to remonstrate with His Highness the Nazim on his intimate alliance with the Company, and to encourage him to place his sole reliance on the power and friendship of this state, and that Moonshy Gopal Rhow having obtained a knowledge of this circumstance, forcibly represented to the Paishwa the injustice and imprudence of attempting to dissolve a connection subsisting between his friends and allies, who so far from having injured him were the only powers which had sincerely interested themselves in his welfare. The Paishwa, as my information says, was exceedingly alarmed at the discovery of this transaction, and not only enjoined Gopal Rhow to the strictest secrecy, but presented him with a dress and a sum of money to ensure his silence.

Although Baajy Row's weakness of understanding and propensity to intrigue may account for his conduct in this proceeding, it is not improbable that he has received encouragement from the parties in opposition to the Company's interest in His Highness's Durbar and family to expect great advantages from espousing their cause, but I do not perceive the smallest prospect of his ever being in a condition to give them effectual support, or to avail himself of any event which is likely to take place in the Government of Hyderabad.

The Paishwa is at this time desirous of proceeding to Juneer for the purpose of celebrating at that place his nuptials which have been some time contracted; but Sindia has prevailed upon him to have the ceremonies performed here, as he cannot otherwise attend them in person. I understand, however, that the Paishwa's real motive for preferring Juneer on this occasion, is to have an interview with Morabah Furnavees, the cousin german*, but rival and enemy of Nana. And that Tautia has influenced Sindia to oppose the Paishwa's wish, on pretence of the urgency of his affairs requiring his presence in cantonments.

I have not yet been able to obtain any further information concerning the person whom I mentioned in my last address to be an emissary from Mysore and secreted in the Paishwa's house, except, that he is a Mussulman, and is treated with respect. I do not know whether there

*Nearest cousin.

is remaining in that country any person of consequence who may be supposed desirous or capable of exciting commotions against our Government. But it is probable that the late revolution will suggest to many needy adventurers the means of profitable imposition by practising on the credulity of this or other Courts, which may be disposed to foment or aid disturbances in Mysore.

Nana Furnavees continues to confine himself closely to his house, and to take all possible precaution for his safety even there. But this evident distrust of the Paishwa's designs against him, does not interrupt the function of his office, he is consulted as usual on all political measures and transacts without obstruction the current business of the state.

Accounts from Brodera, subsequent to the intelligence which I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my last address, make no mention of the Raja's indisposition, or of any tumult in the city. I therefore conclude that the rumour of these events was unfounded.

The Bhyes seemingly in despair of Sindia's fulfilling his engagements to them, have removed to the distance of 60 coss from Poona, and their troops are ravaging the country for subsistence.

No. 329—The Resident reports among other topics the Peshwa's entertaining a secret emissary from Seringapatam and a severe malady from which Nana Fadnis was suffering and which threatened to prove fatal.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th March 1800.

My Lord,

Dowlut Rhaw Sindia's Minister had an interview with the Paishwa since I had the honour to address your Lordship last, though not for the discussion of Sindia's affairs, as I then mentioned to be the intended object of it, but for the purpose of dissuading the Paishwa from calling Morabah Furnawees to Poona, in which he completely succeeded, Baajy Rhaw renouncing his intention of making Morabah his Minister, a station for which he is not qualified and bestowing upon him, at the recommendation of Tautia, a Jagheer of the annual value of 50,000 rupees, and a fort for his secure residence, exclusive of the emoluments of the office of Furnawees which he is permitted to retain, favours to which he is justly entitled by his faithful attachment and services to the Paishwa's father in his misfortunes. This arrangement has been made with the concurrence of Sindia who, at the same time, permitted Tautia to

represent to the Paishwa that his government, under existing circumstances, could not be more advantageously administered, than it is by Nana Furnavees. I understand, that Sindia has been prevailed upon by Tautia to prefer extricating himself from his pecuniary embarrassments by the mode of negotiation with Nana, to an unprincipled application of power for the purpose of extortion, recommended by others as the more speedy and certain means of relief

I am, however, very doubtful, notwithstanding this apparent disposition of Sindia, whether any agreement between him and Nana will take place, as he is wholly averse to retiring from the Deccan, and the Minister will not advance a rupee until he has made that a secure condition of his assistance

The person who gave me information of a secret emissary from Mysore having been admitted to the Paishwa, declares that he was wholly ignorant of the designs on which this agent was sent. I told him that unless his intelligence was circumstantial, I must regard it as a calumny intended to injure the Paishwa in your Lordship's opinion. On this intimation he answered that to remove my doubts of the fact, he could assure me that Sheshaadry Pundit was informed of the mission, and had recommended, that the agent should be immediately dismissed, or, at all events, that his arrival should be concealed from me, as a knowledge of it would draw your Lordship's resentment on the Paishwa. Having learned this circumstance, and knowing my informant to be the trusty agent of a person in the entire confidence of Nana Furnavees, I concluded that the information had been conveyed to me by the Minister's direction. I therefore applied to him for such a communication of the circumstances as might have come to his knowledge, and acquainted him that it was my intention to require an explanation of this suspicious proceeding from the Paishwa. Nana answered, without hesitation, that he knew no more of the transaction than had been related to me, except that the emissary from Mysore had frequent interviews with Emrut Rhaw, and he advised me by all means to apply to the Paishwa on the subject.

The apprehensions expressed by Sheshaadry Pundit of the effects which might ensue from your Lordship's knowledge of the Paishwa's conduct on this occasion, implying that the intrigue is of a serious and dangerous nature, and Captain Kirkpatrick having privately advised me of a rumour of a conspiracy being detected at Seringputtum, it appeared to me of importance to demand an immediate and satisfactory account of an intercourse, which is probably connected with designs of an alarming tendency to the tranquillity of the Company's possessions. I have the honour to enclose a translation of my note to the above effect, sent yesterday. I should at once have required the surrender of the emissary into my hands, if I could have ascertained that he is a subject of our Government. His attendants assert that he is the Nabob of Shanoor,

but that chieftain being a pensioner of this State, the concealment of his person would lead to an unnecessary suspicion of the designs of his visit, as he can plead that he resides here for the purpose of obtaining the regular discharge of his stipend, and it has not of late been paid.

Although the Paishwa may have endeavoured to elude my enquiries or to evade giving the satisfaction which the result of them may entitle me to demand, I now apprehend, that he will not venture to proceed further in his negotiation or intrigue, injurious or offensive to the Company's interests and government, if he has in fact commenced such, or to detain the secret agent who is obvious to our suspicions.

The consideration of Sindia's affairs has been interrupted by the ceremonies of the Paishwa's wife coming of age, and is likely to be further suspended by the approaching festival of the Holie.

Hostilities have been renewed between the forces of the state and the Rajah of Koulapore, in consequence, as it is asserted by the commanders of the former, of a treacherous design of the Rajah to attack them during the suspension of arms being discovered from an intercepted letter of his to a confederate Sirdar. He was circumvented by a sudden attack under the walls of Punнала at night, his camp taken, and he with difficulty escaped himself on foot into the fort which is now invested. His Vakeels are however, still in treaty with the Paishwa and Sindia for an accommodation.

Nana Furnawees has been severely indisposed for three or four days past of a fever and diarrhoea with progressive increase, which at his advanced age and the weak state of body to which he has long been reduced, threatens a fatal termination.

I had the honour to receive an invitation from the Paishwa to the celebration of his marriage, at which I attended accompanied by the gentlemen of the Residency, and made the customary presents of ornaments and dress for the bride.

No. 330—The Resident reports that Nana's illness was on the increase.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 13th March 1800.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the correspondence which has passed to this date between the Paishwa's Moonshy and mine, on the

subject of a secret emissary from Surungputtum being entertained by this Court. In the obvious disposition of the Paishwa to refuse or evade the satisfaction which I require, I have endeavoured to obtain, by private enquiry, a knowledge of the name and condition of the person thus secretly employed, with a view to give such information to Colonel Wellesley and the Resident at Mysore as may enable them to trace his family and connection and thereby to discover his employer and the purposes of his agent. But hitherto I have been unsuccessful, as he is carefully kept from the sight of all persons except those appointed to attend him, under a charge of secrecy.

Gopal Rhow's communications to me from the Minister are illusory, as the latter has no official knowledge of the Paishwa's intercourse with the emissary, but what he has received through Gopal Rhow himself in consequence of my representation, and the answers which have been given to me in his name have, in fact, been dictated by the Paishwa or Emrut Rhow.

The continuance of the Minister's indisposition (which indeed is now at a very alarming height) will serve as a pretext for delaying an answer to my last requisition. But I will not suffer it to defeat my object which appears to me to be of such importance, that if the Paishwa's determination is not signified to me in the course of two or three days, I will demand an audience of him for the purpose of stating the justice of my requisition, and the claim which your Lordship has to complete satisfaction on this subject, as founded on conventional stipulation, and strengthened by the repeated and valuable proofs which you have given the Paishwa of personal consideration and a desire to support his authority.

The Hindoo holidays have interrupted the progress of the designs of the contending parties at the two Durbars. Balloo Tautia has attempted to gain the confidence of his master by stating the good effects which would result from it, and has been supported in his arguments by Balloo Mirza, a man of great respectability and connected with no party. But little or no impression has been made on the mind of Sindia.

The death of Nana Furnaweas, which I think is much to be apprehended, would produce great changes in the conduct and views of the Paishwa's and Sindia's administrations, and probably accelerate the subversion of the Bramin power, and the total separation of the great members from the head of the Mahratta empire.

For some days past no intelligence has transpired of the operations of the Paishwa's and Sindia's force against the Rajah of Koulapore.

No. 331—The Resident reports the death of Nana Fadnis and its probable consequences to the G. G.

FROM—COL. PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 14th March 1800.

It is with great concern that I have to acquaint your Lordship with the death of Nana Furnavees, which happened last night. With him, I fear, has departed all the wisdom and moderation of this Government.

His death is likely to open a new scene of contention between the Peshwa and Sindia for the great wealth which he is supposed to have possessed, and to cause a renewal of the cruelties and rapine, which were exercised two years ago on the unfortunate inhabitants of this city by Serjajee Gautky.

No. 332—The Resident reports how the situation at Poona was disturbed by the death of Nana, to whose office no successor had been appointed and whose widow had not yet been given permission to adopt an heir. Mutual jealousy between the Peshwa and Sindia continued.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 21st March 1800.

The time of mourning observed by the two Durbars for the death of Nana Furnavees not being elapsed, no measures in consequence of that event have yet come under formal discussion, though the views of both Governments as to internal arrangement have been sufficiently made known to each other. The first object for consideration is the choice of a successor to the late Minister. The Peshwa desires that this Office may be merely executive under his orders. Emrut Rao, supported by Balloo Tautea, is endeavouring to obtain it by the influence of Sindia with uncontrolled power, and render the Peshwa a pageant of state, perhaps in the person of Chimna Appa. Sindia's motive of choice is merely venal, and as his power is irresistible, the office will probably be bestowed on the highest bidder.

Whatever distrust and apprehension the Peshwa might have entertained of Nana Furnavees, he already begins to find that his situation will not be improved by the removal of that Minister. Sindia has in two instances assumed an unjust and unqualified interference in his rights and authority by preventing his intention of releasing Gobind Krishen Kauli from confinement on pretext of that person having engaged to pay him ten lacks of rupees for his liberty, and by issuing sunnuds for the seizure of Nana's Jagheers on a claim of one crore of rupees, which the Minister was in fact engaged to pay him, but on conditions on the part of Sindia which have never been fulfilled.

The Peshwa reduced to despair by other conduct of Sindia and by his suspicion of worse designs in Emrut Rao and Tautea, will again have recourse to your Lordship and the Nizam for that protection and support which he formerly solicited, and, either from natural distrust or dread of Sindia imprudently rejected when offered.

Notwithstanding the duplicity of the Peshwa's proceedings in the late negotiations, I shall think it my duty to transmit to your Lordship any proposals from him which the present danger and distress may induce him to offer for an alliance with the Company on the principle of mutual security; but I shall not encourage him to rely on the success of his application.

I have the honor to enclose for your Lordship's more particular information the continuation of the correspondence between the Peshwa's Moonshy and mine, on my requisitions respecting the concealed emissary from Seringapatam. The assertions of Gopaul Rao are very improbable and no satisfactory information or result is to be expected from his agency. I hope to prevail on the Peshwa by firm but temperate personal remonstrance to act as friendship, justice and good faith require of him.

Since the death of Nana I have applied to Gopaul Rao for a communication of such circumstances as have come to his knowledge, respecting the secret agent in question and the nature of his mission, but he declares that the information which he had received on those points, did not exceed that which was first given to me and came from the same source.

The Peshwa has hitherto treated Nana's family and dependants with kindness and given them repeated assurances of protection. He however has not yet consented to the adoption of a son by the widow according to the established custom among the Bramins of this state, and which Nana, when in power, enforced with religious observance.

No steps appear to have been yet taken to discover where Nana's treasure is deposited. It has probably been confided to various hands

and in various places, of which, it is supposed, no person in Poona has a knowledge.

Intelligence is received of Sindia's troops having been severely repulsed in storming the citadel of Kolapore; I understand that hostilities were renewed without order from hence.

No. 333—The Resident at Goa reports to the G. G proposals from the Raja of Kolhapur for taking him and his Raj under British protection. This was an important move on the part of Indian princes to seek British protection.

FROM—J. UATHOFF, BRIT. RESIDENT AT GOA,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Goa, 14th March 1800.

My Lord,

The agents at this place of the Raja of Kolapore continue very importunate in their solicitations for our support to the Raja's cause. On the instant, they went so far as to assure me that they were authorized by the Raja to declare, that considering the British Government as his friends, and that to a sacrifice to a friend were better than to an enemy, he had determined to throw himself on the friendship and generosity of the British Government and to deliver up to them the fort of Kolapore.

I replied, that as the Raja had not yet evinced a sincere disposition to settle in an equitable manner the negociation that had been so long pending between him and the British Government, on the subject of his numerous depredations against us, nor had made a reference, as I had so repeatedly recommended, to Colonels Wellesley, Palmer, or Close, my Government had not furnished me with instructions to meet his present representation. In the course of conversation I observed to them, that though the offer of the fort of Kolapore to our nation was very handsome on the part of the Raja from its intrinsic value and from its importance to him, yet that, in fact, it would of itself be of but little use to us, surrounded as it would be by foreign territory. I took occasion to sound them as to the disposition of the Raja to surrender to us the country that he possesses below the Ghaut. After some discussion, they proposed to submit to the Raja to surrender to us the whole of the country that he possesses between the Ghaut range of mountains and

the sea, including the passes, in consideration of our accepting that country as a reparation and indemnification for the numerous claims that we have against him, and in consideration for our good offices in mediating a peace between him and his enemies and guaranteeing to him the rest of his territory against the aggression of any foreign powers, he engaging to refrain from aggression on his part. They also required that the fort of Rangna, which I understand to be above Ghauts, should remain with the Raja

I observed to the Raja's agents that I would submit these points to your Lordship's notice, but that I could not depend on Your Lordship's paying any attention to them, considering that the Raja's conduct for these forty years past had been invariably such as to preclude any confidence in his friendly professions, in his abiding by his engagements with us, or even in his refraining from aggression against us. That I was in consequence extremely desirous that some conspicuous mark should be shown of the Raja's sincerity and goodwill on the present occasion, and also, that some satisfaction should be immediately granted for the numerous insults and injuries that we had sustained from him. I, in consequence, proposed to them that the Raja should immediately pay one lak of rupees on account of our numerous claims upon him, and that on receiving this mark of his sincerity and goodwill, I would take upon myself to write a letter to Appa Saheb, the eldest son of the late Pursaram Bhow, who was now at the head of the opposition against the Raja, expressing my regret that he should be involved in hostilities, and earnestly soliciting that he would accede to a cessation of arms till a reference could be made to your Lordship to mediate a peace between the contending parties

The agents of the Kolapore Raja proposed, that on the country below the Ghauts being ceded to and taken possession of by us, and all the other conditions being fulfilled, that the lak of rupees which the Raja would advance as an earnest of his sincerity and goodwill should be returned to the Raja

I beg leave to submit to Your Lordship that in the part which I have taken on this occasion, I have been actuated by the following considerations. The desirableness to us of the existence of a Marratta Chief of the rank and power of the Raja of Kolapore, as a barrier between us and the power of the Paishwa, Sindia, etc., near our northern frontier of Mysore; the credit and goodwill that we should derive with the Raja and his subjects for the favourable disposition evinced by us to avert those hostilities, by which they had already suffered greatly and which threatened their total ruin. The desirableness to us of the acquisition by equitable means, of the country belonging to the Raja of Kolapore between the Ghaut range of mountains and the sea in a revenue and commercial point of view, as removing that power from which we had experienced insults

and injuries for many years, and placing us the more effectually in a situation of check against the Dessye of Sawunt Warree and the other piratical branches of the Marratta empire between Goa and Bombay.

As another mark of friendly disposition and goodwill toward the Raja of Kolapore and his subjects, after strongly pointing out the extreme danger, nay, probably ruin to which they were exposed by the continuance of hostilities, I offered to receive and deposit in security within our territories any money, jewels, or other valuables that might be committed to my charge by the Raja or any of his subjects, and to restore such property to its rightful owners, whenever required. In this proposal I had in view to secure to the Bombay Government on advantageous terms some ready money, of which they have, I understand, of late been much in want; to increase the wealth of our own territories; to establish our reputation with, and to acquire the goodwill of the Raja and his subjects; and eventually, to make it the means of our obtaining some reparation for the numerous losses that we have sustained from the Raja and his subjects.

Although far from sanguine of complete success on the part I have taken on this occasion, it appears to me probable that some of the above advantages may result from it, at the same time that I cannot perceive that it involves any ill consequences.

I shall furnish copies of this letter to the Bombay Government and Colonels Palmer and Close.

No. 334—A man with treacherous designs was surrendered by the Peshwa to Palmer at Poona. He writes to Col. Wellesley to inquire and inform him how he was to be dealt with.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—COLONEL WELLESLEY, COMMANDING THE GHATS.

Poona, 6th April 1800.

Sir,

The person from whom I have taken the enclosed declaration, was surrendered into my custody two days ago by the Paishwa, after a month had elapsed in repeated applications to this effect on the ground of his being a subject of the Company, whose dominions he had clandestinely

quitted, and, as I had reason to suspect, for the purpose of soliciting the aid of this State in a conspiracy against our Government in Mysore.

I have required from this Court an explicit communication of the purport of the letters which Mirza Alli Rezza asserts to have brought from Mirza Mahmood, and to have been taken from him. I am not certain that this requisition will be complied with, and as in case of refusal I have no other means of ascertaining the truth or falsehood of this man's surrender of himself and the object of his journey to Poona, I propose to detain him in confinement here until the enquiries which you may judge it expedient to make on the subject, shall enable you to direct me how he is to be finally disposed of. If, in the mean time, I should obtain proof of his having come here on treacherous designs, I shall remit him to you for punishment.

No. 335—The Resident reports to the Governor General that he has in his custody a suspicious person named Ali Rezza and that he has written to the Resident at Mysore to ascertain his object and designs in coming to the Peshwa.

FROM—COL. WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 7th April 1800

My Lord,

I have the satisfaction to inform you, that the Paishwa surrendered into my custody on the 4th at night the person whom I have so long reclaimed as a fugitive subject of the Company at this Court, and whom I suspected to be the agent of treacherous proposals from Mysore.

I have twice examined this man, after first endeavouring to convince him of the certain and speedy discovery of any plot in which he might be engaged, now that his person is secured, and intimating the advantage which he might derive from a frank and explicit confession. He persists, however, in asserting that his sole motive for coming hither was to obtain service and gives substantially the following account of himself in support of his assertion.

His name, he says, is Mirza Alli Rezza, and that he is related to the late Tippoo Sultan by the marriage of that prince with his maternal aunt.

He was wounded and taken prisoner in the assault of Surungputtun, and was sent with the sons and family of the Sultaun to Velloor. That himself and some other relations of the family being dissatisfied with their stipend, relinquished them, and obtained leave to depart. In the number of those was a brother of Kummur-ul-Dien Khan, named Mhir Mahmood, whom he accompanied to Banglaore, at which place they resided 5 months, and then retired together to a place called Pauktoor in the Nizam's dominions. Being destitute of any subsistence but such as he derived from the bounty of Mahmood, to whom he was already much in debt, he proposed proceeding to Poona in search of employ, to which his friend consented, furnishing him with a letter of recommendation to the Paishwa, his two brothers, Nana Furnawees and Dowlut Rhow, and authorizing him to declare that he was ready to accept of the Paishwa's service himself, if that Prince would invite him, as his Jagheer had been given to Kummur-ul-Dien and he had refused the Company's pension.

On his arrival at Poona he hired a house, the owner whereof giving information of the arrival of a stranger to Balloo Khoonjir, the Police officer, a party of sepoys, accompanied by a Karkoon, and some Hoozras (Domestics) of Emrut Rhow, came and surrounded the house, took possession of his effects, and carried away his letters of recommendation. He says that he was afterwards examined by Baboo Chitnawees, the Divan of Emrut Rhow, and frequently encouraged to explain himself if he came to solicit military aid, to which he constantly answered that he wanted nothing but subsistence, as stated in the letters which he had brought.

He avers that he never saw the Paishwa. He once accidentally met Emrut Row at the house of a Derweish, when the latter took occasion to point him out, and asked the Rhow what were his intentions respecting him, who answered that he had nothing to do with him, and he might dispose of himself as he pleased.

I doubt whether this man is the person he pretends to be, as he is entirely ignorant of the Persian language, a deficiency of which I never knew an instance in a Mossulman of rank. But whoever he is, I am persuaded that he has made overtures to this Court for exciting or supporting commotion in Mysore, perhaps without authority, and only with a view to obtain subsistence, or perhaps authorized by Mhir Mahommed. I cannot otherwise account for the reluctance shown by the Durbar to communicate to me the purport of his mission, and to surrender his person. And I know how ready this Government is to receive and encourage proposals for disturbing the tranquillity of its neighbours, however remote or precarious the prospect of advantage may be.

I have again represented to the Paishwa, that to conceal his knowledge of any designs dangerous to the security or injurious to the interests of

the Company, is incompatible with his public engagements and personal affections. And that, in fact, an attempt at concealment would be fruitless after the surrender of the person who had made overtures of such a tendency. I therefore requested he would acquaint me with the real purport of the letters and messages brought by Mirza Allı Rezza. I have not yet received an answer to this application.

I shall use further endeavours to discover the truth or falsehood of this man's narrations. In the mean time, I allow every comfort and indulgence, consistent with attention to the safe custody of his person. I have given the fullest information in my power concerning him to Colonel Wellesley and the Resident at Mysore. His family is, he says, at Bangalore and those gentlemen may, by that means, as well by their local situation and knowledge of other circumstances, be able to discover his real condition, views, and connections. I purpose to detain him until answers from Mysore may direct me how to dispose of him.

The Paishwa has not yet consigned the management of his intercourse with the Company to Emrut Rhow, nor even notified to me his appointment of the Rhow to be his Minister.

Sindia has not yet been able to form his Ministry on his plan of coalition, Balloo Tautia and Abba Chitnaweas having peremptorily refused to associate in power with Serjajee Ghautky. This want of arrangement holds in suspense all affairs of moment at both Durbars.

No. 336—The Resident reports that the Peshwa had complied with the requisitions of the G. G. He expresses the Peshwa's steady determination to act with good faith in his engagements to the Company.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 18th April 1800

My Lord,

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's commands as conveyed to me by Colonel Kirkpatrick, Secretary to Government, in his letters of the 29th and 31st ultimo.

Your Lordship will have observed in my last address that the necessity of my carrying your instructions into execution was obviated by the

Paishwa's compliance with my requisition to deliver the emissary from Mysore into my custody. And I have now the further satisfaction to state my expectation of all remaining cause of complaint on the subject of this secret mission being removed, by the promise of Moonshy Gopal Row to furnish me with a circumstantial and faithful relation of the communications made by the agent, in the course of two or three days.

At the desire of Gopal Rhow, my Moonshy met him in the city on the 16th when he expressed his concern at the trouble and vexation which I had experienced in the transaction alluded to, and endeavoured to exculpate the conduct of the Paishwa by the unsettled state of his administration, and the contrariety of opinions and interests in his counsels. Gopal Rhow declared that the Paishwa entertains a just sense of the obligations conferred on his father and himself, by the Company and their Government in India, and is sincerely desirous of meriting the continuance of their friendship and support. The Moonshy added, that he hoped I would not ascribe the delays and evasions, of which I had complained, to his neglect or indisposition towards the interests of the Company, as he had acted in strict conformity to the commands of his superiors, and could assure me that he was entirely disposed to facilitate, in his station, the intercourse between the two Governments and was sincerely attached to their mutual security and interests.

Moonshy Fukir-ul-Dien assured Gopal Row that these declarations would be very agreeable to me, observing that the Paishwa must be convinced, by numerous instances that the Company's Government had no other objects in view in their connexion with this State than their reciprocal safety, prosperity and rights demands; and that the Paishwa must also have been convinced of Your Lordship's sincere wish to connect those objects with the power and stability of his administration, that an adherent to these declarations would establish the requisite harmony and confidence between the two states, and that I should be happy to co-operate with Gopal Row in this desirable end.

The Resident at Hyderabad having intimated to me his intention to detach a part of the Company's subsidiary force against the insurgent Dhoondiah Waag, who might attempt to elude the attack by retreating within Mahratta territories, I requested of the Paishwa to issue the necessary orders for preventing Dhoondiah or any of his adherents from entering into his dominions; he promised to give immediate directions to that effect.

I hope that these compliances on the part of the Paishwa, are the result of a steady determination to act with good faith in his engagements, and with a friendly regard to the tranquillity, rights, and dignity of the Company and their allies. But I rather apprehend that this commendable change of conduct proceeds from fear, or is preparatory

to the appearance of an application to your Lordship for support against the suspected designs of Emrut Rhow and the encroachments of Sindia.

Whatever views this Prince may entertain of aggrandizing himself at the expense of the Paishwa, they are necessarily suspended by his want of an efficient ministry. Tautia, who is nominally Minister, wanting the confidence of his master, declines to engage in any measures which subject him to responsibility. It is however probable that the necessity of Sindia's affairs will compel him to yield to the perseverance of Tautia in rejecting a connexion with Serjajee Gautky, and to commit the conduct of his government unreservedly to that minister and Abba Chitnawees

Mr. Uhthoff has advised me of his addresses to Your Lordship on the overtures made to him by the Rajah of Koulapore, for adjusting the demands of the Company. If Your Lordship should authorize Mr. Uhthoff *to treat with the Rajah*, it will be necessary to withdraw the interposition of the Paishwa that it may not defeat Mr. Uhthoff's negotiations. I am informed that both the Paishwa and Sindia are actually treating with the Rajah for the accommodation of their differences with him, and it is probable that they have mixed the claims of the Company with their own demands. But they have not given me any notification on the subject, and I expect no other consequence from their interference than the Paishwa remaining in his present state of responsibility for procuring satisfaction to the Company from the Rajah.

No. 337—The appointment of Amrtrao as Dewan by the Peshwa and its approval by Sindia are communicated by the Resident. He also demanded satisfaction for the secret intrigue conducted by the Peshwa with agents from Seringapatam.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 28th March 1800.

The Peshwa has appointed his brother by adoption Emrut Rao to be his Minister under the title of Duan. I understand that Sindia has approved of this choice, and it is probable that he suggested it. But I have not yet received any information of the circumstances which have determined the Peshwa to bestow this office on a person whom he professes to consider as his enemy.

I have twice since my last address reminded Moonshy Gopal Row my application for an audience of the Paishwa, on the subject of a secret emissary from Surungputtun, without receiving any other answer than that he would procure it as soon as possible. I am not able to ascribe a motive for this delay and inattention in a matter of importance, and am in doubt whether it proceeds from the principal or the agent. It is probable that the affair will now be referred to Emrut Rhow; but such reference or my audience of the Paishwa is longer delayed, I have no resource but to remonstrate by memorials against the infraction of treaty and to await your Lordship's decision in the event of satisfaction being ultimately refused.

No official intimation of Emrut Rao's appointment has been made to me. I hope he will give me an early proof of the attachment which he professed to the Company, by a candid and explicit communication of an intrigue in which it has at least been attempted to engage this Court, or disturbing the tranquillity of the government and possessions of the Company.

No. 338—To the requisition made by the Resident to Bajirao for the surrender of the emissary from Seringapatam, he declined to make any answer; he heard the representation in perfect silence and apparent confusion writes Palmer to the G. G.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 4th April 1800.

I have the honor to transmit for your Lordship's information, the continuation of correspondence between the Peshwa's Moonshy and mine, on my requisition for the surrender of the person of the emissary from Seringapatam and for the disclosure of the secret objects of his mission.

I was entirely at a loss to account for the motives on which the Peshwa persisted in evading the satisfaction required, after the facts on which it is demanded are established by the tenor of Gopaul Rao's correspondence. But my perplexity has been in some degree removed in consequence of Fukeeruddin's waiting on Emrut Rao on the 2nd instant, by the Rao's desire. Fukeeruddin found Emrut Rao attended by Naroo Pundit Chuckerdeo, Balwunt Rao Naganant and Moonshy Gopaul Rao.

The new Minister said to Fukeeruddin that as no intercourse between the Durbar and the Residency had taken place since the death of Nana Furnavees, he had sent for him to convey to me his assurances of attachment to the Company and of personal regard for myself. He then asked him without attending to any particular subject whether he had any communication to make. Fukeeruddin replied, that the summons he had received from the Rao induced him rather to expect that it was for the purpose of making communications to him, than that of requiring any from him. But as I had instructed him to explain my sentiments in general on the conduct observed by the two Governments relative to each other, if the Durbar should shew a disposition to attend to the subject, and as such explanation was connected with matters now in discussion, he was ready to enter upon it. He was here interrupted by the arrival of the Peshwa; but after usual compliments and ceremonies had been paid, Emrut Rao desired him to proceed, when he recapitulated the circumstances of the connection between the Company and the Peshwa's father, the proofs which had been afforded under your Lordship's Government of the sincerest concern for the authority and interests of Baajy Rao himself, and contrasted this conduct with that of the Peshwa in all its circumstances towards the Company in the late war with Tippoo, in the rejection of our proposed alliance both prior and subsequent to that event, and lastly in the transaction which is the subject of the present complaint.

The Peshwa listened to this discourse in perfect silence and apparent confusion, and when Fukeeruddin stated the substance of the correspondence now going on between himself and Gopaul Rao and the latter asserted that he had communicated it to Emrut Rao, the Peshwa exhibited evident signs in his countenance of surprise and ignorance of material circumstances. From this appearance and Baajy Rao's known timidity of disposition, and from a report of Emrut Rao having attached Gopaul Rao to his interests, I am induced to believe that the strong representations which I have made and which were likely to prevail on the Peshwa to comply with my requisitions, have been concealed from him for the purpose of rendering him suspected to your Lordship and depriving him of your support if he should solicit it against their designs.

Emrut Rao repeatedly desired of the Peshwa to answer the representations which he heard, but he entirely declined it until pressed for his determination on my reclaiming the Seringapatam emissary. He called Balwant Rao Naganant to him and imparted some orders to him which could not be heard by any other person in the room, but were by him conveyed to Emrut Rao, who immediately after told Fukeeruddin that I should be informed of the Peshwa's resolution the next day.

No. 339—The Resident reports a conciliatory tone on the part of Sindia towards the Company's Govt., the arrest of Baloba Tatya and Dhondiba by Sindia, and the death of Manaji Phakde. He adds, "Bajirao's distrust of all mankind prevents his having recourse to the talents of others and his notorious insincerity deters every person from offering to assist him."

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 28th April 1800.

Since my last address an event has taken place which appears to be preparatory to Sindia's carrying into execution his ultimate measures for arranging and conducting the Peshwa's government and his own, and which, in the actual state of both, cannot fail to produce important consequences.

On the 23rd Sindia waited upon the Peshwa and had a conference with him for the space of nearly two hours, without the intervention of any person whatever. Serjajee Gautky and Bannajee Huzra, Sindia's two principal confidants, were then admitted and assisted at the remaining part of the conference, but neither Emrut Rao nor any servant of the Peshwa was permitted to be present.

I could not hope to obtain any information on the subject of an interview conducted with so much caution and secrecy, and could only conjecture that Sindia had imparted to Bajy Rao his final resolutions on the settlement of a ministry in both Governments and the plans to be pursued, in which the Peshwa had nothing to do but to acquiesce, and of which the effects would soon appear.

In this expectation I was not disappointed; for Sindia on the 25th caused Balloo Tautea and his brother Dhoondaba to be arrested at his Durbar and sent into confinement under a guard from the regular Brigade under Mr. Sutherland, and at the same time the principal adherents of those ministers were put under restraint.

Sindia had previously provided for the safe execution of this measure, by reconciling the commanders of the Brigades to the violation of their guarantee for the security of the person of Tautea and his dependants, when he last returned to the Ministry. But it is still a very bold and hazardous proceeding in its consequences as Lacawa Dada who commands Sindia's army in Hindustan, is devoted to Tautea and has considerably augmented his force by the junction of troops from Jesswunt Rao Holkar, and has applied for further reinforcements from the widow of

Sumroo and the adventurer George Thomas The Byes too who are still within 50 Coss of Poona, consider their safety and interests as inseparable from those of Tautia, and have lately increased their troops to the number of 5 or 6,000 men, and will doubtless either renew their depredations on the Deccan or repair to Lacawa.

I am informed that Sindia has been induced to expose himself to the dangers of a premature removal of Tautia by the temptation of twenty-five lacs of rupees advanced to him by Ambajee, Serjajee Gautky and Abba Chitnavees, the last of whom it seems, has deserted Tautia in the expectation of succeeding him.

That Sindia is not without considerable apprehensions of the consequences of this act, I am inclined to believe from his having on the 26th requested of me to send Meer Fukeeruddin to him. When my Moonshy arrived in camp, Sindia was taking his repose and unluckily before the audience could take place, intelligence was brought to him of the death of his kinsman, Manajee Phaukrea. The forms of mourning prevented his entering upon business with Fukeeruddin as he intended, and he rather trespassed upon them in admitting him to his presence; but either from politeness or an apprehension of his motive being misunderstood, he would not entirely disappoint an interview. He apologized by his situation for deferring the communications which he had then intended to make and said he should request Fukeeruddin's attendance at the expiration of three days, and hoped to be favoured with a visit from me after my Moonshy should have reported to me what he had to impart. He took this occasion of making strong professions of his attachment to the Company, declared his entire reliance in your Lordship's friendship and regard to his welfare, and concluded with some compliments to me.

Doulut Rao has hitherto shewn so little attention or deference to the Company's Government in his transactions here and so little personal consideration for me, that I can regard his present advances towards a more confidential intercourse and civility as the result of his fears arising *from his actual situation, or a prospect of the difficulties in which he is likely to be involved by the schemes which he may have formed*

Baajy Rao seems to have resigned himself implicitly to the direction of Sindia and to be totally incapable of making any spirited effort for the recovery of his authority or any resistance to further encroachment on it. His abilities are indeed unequal to the formation of any plan for his deliverance and his distrust of all mankind prevents his having recourse to the talents of others. At the same time his notorious insincerity deters every person from offering to assist him.

The dread of S Ghautky's return to power has caused great consternation and dismay in the city of Poona, and many creditable families are already retiring with their effects.

No. 340—In reply to the G. G.'s proposal for a permanent alliance being formed between Bajirao and the Company's Govt., the Resident reports several serious obstacles to the completion of the scheme suggested by the G. G. The various obstacles are fully explained.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 2nd May 1800.

I have been honoured with your Lordship's commands of the 12th and 14th ultimo from the Secret Department. I shall endeavour, with unremitting attention, to avail myself of such incidents in the progress of affairs at this Court and of such a disposition in the Peshwa, as may be favourable to the renewal of a negotiation, for attaining the important objects which your Lordship has so long had in contemplation in a new alliance with this state.

No transaction on the part of Sindia has taken place since the disgrace of Balloo Tautia which has excited either alarm or disgust in the Peshwa, and there is but too much reason to apprehend that he has cordially embraced Sindia's proposals for the acquisition of money by the oppression of individuals. He has certainly issued orders in concert with Sindia for the seizure of the sons of Pursaram Bhow, though these chiefs are now engaged with him in hostilities against the Rajah of Koulapore. And it is generally suspected that he has projected with Sindia the plunder of the dependants of Nana, of many of his own Sirdars and of all the wealthy inhabitants of Poona.

Baajy Rao probably expects by thus engaging in the rapacious schemes of Sindia to divert him from further encroachment on his own authority or revenues. And while he retains this opinion of his security, it would not only be fruitless but dangerous to suggest his emancipation by the means which your Lordship proposes, or even to intimate your disposition to new engagements with him. He would certainly in the present state of his connection with Sindia make a merit of betraying to that Chief your Lordship's wish to support him.

But this cordiality will last no longer than it can promote Sindia's views of rapine, of which Baajy Rao will find himself first the dupe and in the end the victim. When he shall be convinced that Sindia is determined on his deposal or to leave him only a mere pageant under the total annihilation of his authority and sequestration of his revenue, he will treat with sincerity for your Lordship's protection and acquiesce in the equitable conditions proposed for affording it.

Notwithstanding my opinion of the Peshwa's present situation and disposition, I shall employ every means in my power to discover whether a change in the latter may be safely attempted by exciting his feelings to a sense of his danger and degradation from the assumed superiority and ultimate designs of Sindia. But I must confess that my hopes of success in such attempt are but slender. I fear that he must experience the utmost distress with which he is threatened, before any considerable impression can be made on his mind. And I have no intercourse with any person on whose influence with the Peshwa and integrity of character I could rely for the successful issue and faithful discharge of such a mission. Moonshy Gopal Rao is the only channel allowed for my communications to the Peshwa, and he is in no respect a proper person with whom to originate a measure of delicacy and importance.

Without implicitly relying on Emrut Rao's professions of attachment to the British nation and interests, it would undoubtedly be of the utmost advantage to him in any views which he is likely to entertain, to be instrumental in promoting the closest alliance between the Company and this State. But he is not permitted to have any direct interference with me and indeed has no sort of weight or influence in affairs. No opportunity has yet occurred by which a judgment might be formed of his abilities or fortitude, and he is only disadvantageously known by injustice in the accumulation of wealth and the most sordid parsimony in preserving it.

It is in this want of fit mediators and the wretched character of Baajy Rao that I apprehend the greatest obstacles to the completion of your Lordship's views. If the Peshwa could be induced to enter steadily into negotiation, I have no conception that Sindia would presume to obstruct it by any act of personal violence, as he could not be ignorant that your Lordship would consider so flagrant an aggression as equivalent to declared hostilities with the Company. And the Peshwa might be encouraged to proceed by my previously signifying (if he should require it) to Sindia the consequences of his giving any obstruction to the progress of an alliance between the head of the Mahratta State and the British Government. The greatest danger of disappointment from that quarter is that Sindia in prosecution of his own schemes may remove Baajy Rao before your Lordship has acquired the right of protecting him by his entering into a negotiation to that effect.

Sindia has not yet named a minister in the room of Tautia, and probably will not disclose his ultimate plans until he can securely carry them into execution by reducing the power of the Byes and Lakwa Dada. The former are reported to be moving northward in consequence of Tautia's disgrace and, as is supposed, with intention to join Lakawa.

No. 341—The Resident explains to the G. G. why Bajirao was by natural temper and prejudices so averse to placing himself in dependence upon a European Govt. until, he apprehends, being deposed by a native power. He recommends the policy of patiently watching the progress of events and improving such of them as would incline him to accede to the proposed alliance.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 9th May 1800.

Since I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 2nd instant I have endeavoured by every means to which I have access, to discover the actual situations and dispositions of the Peshwa and Sindia, relatively to each other, and all the information which I have been able to obtain concurs in the opinion that mutual confidence, cordiality, and concert subsist between them in a greater degree at present than has hitherto been known. No expectation however is entertained that this apparent union is sincere or can be lasting, but will, it is believed, expire with the accomplishment or failure of the temporary purposes for which it was respectively contracted, the ultimate and permanent views of the parties being totally incompatible.

While the Peshwa is intent upon the objects, whatever they may be, which has induced his present close adherence to Sindia, he certainly will not make any advances towards improving his connections with the Company. And I think, it will appear to your Lordship that in this situation he would pervert any overtures from me to this effect to his own purposes with Sindia and to the total disappointment of your views. Indeed there is but too much reason to suppose that he is by natural temper and prejudices so averse to place himself in any sort of dependence on a European government, that nothing less than his apprehensions of being deposed by a native power will induce him to have recourse to it. For these reasons I am persuaded that the safest and surest line of conduct which I can pursue under existing circumstances for the success of the important objects of your Lordship's instructions, is to confine myself to such general assurances when occasions of making them offer, of your Lordship's unaltered regard to the rights of the Peshwa and to the prosperity of the Mahratta Empire, as may encourage him to solicit protection whenever he may be so disposed, and assiduously to watch the progress of events and improve such as may appear favorable for inclining him to accede to the projected alliance.

The apparent harmony and constant intercourse of messages between the Peshwa and Sindia by their respective most confidential servants

and favourites, have excited universal terror among those persons who are obnoxious to their rapacity or vengeance; and every individual in the city of Poona who is possessed of considerable property, either endeavours to convey it away or hires soldiers for its protection. But if these chieftains have, as is suspected, engaged in a scheme of general plunder and extortion, both this and any other projects which they may have formed are suspended until advice arrives from Hindoostan of the designs of Lackwa Dada and his ability to execute them.

The Bhyes continue their route to the northward and Sindia is so apprehensive of their intention being to join Lackwa, that he has actually transmitted to them sunnuds for the fortress of Assir, which he had so long refused in violation of his engagements. But I believe those ladies will not be encouraged by this lure to remain within his reach.

Sindia has not yet desired another interview with my Moonshy, but I learn indirectly that such is still his intention and afterwards to request a conference with me. But I have no intimation of the nature of his intended communications.

I learn on good authority that the Peshwa is very desirous to release Gobind Kishen Kauly and to restore him to the management of affairs, but is opposed by Sindia, who is treating with Moorabah Furnavees to procure for him the office of Prime Minister on condition of his paying twenty-five lacs of rupees. It is the general opinion that the appointment of Emrut Rao to that station was a mere temporary expedient until the Peshwa and Sindia could agree in the choice of a successor to Nana, or more properly speaking, until Sindia should dictate it.

No. 342—The Resident reports his interview with the Peshwa at which the former communicated to him the message received from Sir Charles Malet of his having delivered to the King the presents sent with him by Bajirao. Bajirao received the friendly assurances with apparent satisfaction and declared his readiness to profit by the G. G.'s friendship on every emergency.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 19th May 1800.

I waited on the Peshwa yesterday evening by his appointment and after sitting a few minutes in public Durbar, he desired me to retire with

him to a private apartment, whither he was attended by his two brothers, Narroo Pundit Chuckerdeo and Moonshy Gopal Rao. He said that he should be glad to hear the message which I had received from Sir Charles Malet, which I accordingly repeated to him, and which in substance was to acquaint him with the manner of delivery of his presents and of the verbal assurances of respect and attachment with which he had charged Sir Charles to His Majesty and the Company, with the gracious reception which His Majesty had given to these presents and assurances, and the satisfaction and cordiality with which they had been received by the Company, adding that the friendship and alliance which subsisted between His Highness and the Company was highly acceptable to the King, and its stability and improvement an object of the first consideration to the Company.

The Peshwa expressed his deep sense of His Majesty's goodness and condescension and the greatest satisfaction and confidence in the friendly sentiments and views of the Company.

Finding the Peshwa in these favourable sentiments (at least in the profession of them), I proceeded to assure him that he might firmly rely on the disposition of the Company and on that of their Government in India to cultivate and improve the amity and alliance subsisting between the two states for their mutual security and tranquillity; and that your Lordship was at no time inattentive or indifferent to his situation or welfare, and observed with sincere concern the continuance of those divisions by which his authority and the strength of the Mahratta Empire had been so much impaired.

Baajy Rao received these assurances with much apparent satisfaction and declared confidence in them, and said that he should, without reserve, have recourse to your Lordship's friendship on every emergency.

Perhaps no great stress is to be laid upon the Peshwa's real sentiments from these general professions. But I am inclined to believe, he is in some degree disposed to trust ultimately to your Lordship's protection and support for the recovery of his rights and authority, from the circumstance of his having desired my Moonshy to attend him previous to my visit, when Fukiruddin found him unattended by any other person but Moonshy Gopal Rao.

At this private interview the Peshwa observed to my Moonshy that the latter could not be ignorant of the characters and views of the principal persons at his Court, that every one was pursuing his separate interests regardless of his (Peshwa's) honour or the safety of the state. In such a situation Baajy Rao said, that attempts to injure him in the opinion of your Lordship would be made by conveying to me suspicions of his principles and designs respecting the English Company. He had

therefore to request that whenever reports of such a tendency should reach me, from whatever quarter they may come, I would give no credit to them until I had informed him of them and he should be enabled to refute them.

Baajy Rao proceeded to complain of the insidious conduct of Doulut Rao Sindia in making him a visit and affecting a long private conference with him previous to the disgrace and confinement of Balloo Tautia in order to throw the odium of that measure upon him. He then directed Fukiruddin to wait upon Emrout Rao and confer with him on the subject of Dhoondia Waugh's incursions, but to take no notice to the Rao of any other matter which he had then communicated.

With what degree of sincerity and with what views the Peshwa may have made these communications, I hope to discover precisely from Gopal Rao, and by his agency (as he now appears to be so much in the Peshwa's confidence) to impress His Highness with a thorough conviction of his imminent danger from the character and indeed, from the necessities of Sindia, and of the impracticability of averting it by any other mode than the aid of the Company.

Emrut Rao has promised to determine immediately on my suggestions of a junction of the Peshwa's troops with those of the Company for the purpose of reducing the insurgent force of Dhoondia Waugh, or of permitting our troops to execute that service in the Mahratta dominions if he should shelter himself within them, and the Peshwa be unable to expel him.

No. 343—The Resident reports the perplexity of Sindia caused by the precarious state of his affairs in the north and the consequent independence of action assured to Bajirao, who was not likely to avail himself of the G. G.'s offer until the usurpation and oppression of Sindia became intolerable. For the present, adds the Resident, Bajirao was concerting measures to possess himself of the secret wealth of Nana.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 23rd May 1800.

Since my last address, Doulut Rao Sindia has desired the attendance of Moonshy Fukiruddin, who waited upon him on the 21st. Sindia

made no other communications at this interview than general professions of attachment to the Company, a desire of more frequent intercourse with me and a renewal of his requisition respecting Lackwa Dada. His real object in it was probably to obtain some information of the purport of my late visit to the Peshwa and to compare it with the account which Baajy Rao (no doubt) has given him of it, as he made particular enquiry concerning the health and situation of Sir Charles Malet.

The doubts and perplexity into which Sindia is thrown by the uncertain state of his affairs in Hindoostan, from whence he has received no advices, for several days, suspends the execution of his projects here, and leaves the Peshwa in a condition of comparative independence unfavourable to the introduction of any direct overtures from your Lordship for his emancipation on the stipulations required. I have, indeed, no doubt of his having endeavoured to avail himself of the assurances which I gave him at my late interview, to restrain the encroachments of Sindia, and that he will continue to make the same use of any further knowledge which he may acquire of your Lordship's disposition to support him until the usurpation and oppression of Sindia become intolerable.

I am informed, that the Peshwa and Emrut Rao are separately negotiating with Sindia to be left in the uncontrolled exercise of the power of this government, for which each purposes to pay forty lacks of rupees, and to reimburse himself by the seizure of Nana's dependants and other wealthy individuals. The Peshwa has a good title to the greatest part of the treasure which Nana may have amassed, but it is not probable that the dependants of that minister in Poona are in possession of any part of it, or even know where it is deposited.

No. 344—This is an important communication in which is explained why Bajirao was so very reluctant to trust himself to the Company's protection; says the Resident, "nothing except the prospect of inevitable and imminent destruction can prevail on him to admit a large and permanent force of the Company's troops within his dominions."

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.

Poona, 30th May 1800.

Since I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 19th instant my Moonshy has had three conferences, and myself one, with Moonshy

Gopal Rao and his brother on the subject of my requisition for the Peshwa's permitting the Company's troops to pass his frontier, if it should be necessary, in pursuit of the freebooter Dhoondiajee Waug.

This permission was repeatedly refused on pretence of its being rendered unnecessary by the peremptory orders which His Highness had dispatched to Dhoondia Punt Gokla and Gunput Rao Paunsy, whose forces are already on the southern frontier, to unite and attack Dhoondiajee's, which would certainly terminate either in his total defeat or expulsion from the Mahratta territories.

After stating my apprehension of the insufficiency of the force under these commanders to reduce or remove Dhoondiajee, and the bad consequences of failure to this Government as well as to that of the Company's and their allies, by this insurgent's maintaining a position in the Mahratta dominions, whence he might at his convenience invade the possessions of the former and return to the latter with safety and impunity, and after strongly putting the question of what construction your Lordship could give to the refusal of a request so just and reasonable, Moonshy Gopal Rao promised to repeat my arguments and representations to the Peshwa in hopes of their prevailing on him to change his resolution.

The following day Fukuruddin received a note from Gopal Rao recommending that I should engage, by written promise, for the regular conduct of the Company's troops within the Mahratta boundaries, and for their return whenever the professed object for passing them should be accomplished

I could have no hesitation to comply with this advice, knowing that the promise required must be conformable to your Lordship's intentions I made it immediately in the terms suggested

Gopal Rao having shewn my engagement to the Peshwa, sent for Meer Fukuruddin again on the 28th, but left his brother to receive him, who said that the Peshwa wished me to believe that he was willing to comply with my requisition, and hoped that I would ascribe his hesitation to his apprehension of Sindia who would certainly oppose his consent to the entrance of the Company's troops into the Mahratta territory, and offer to preclude the necessity for it by a promise of sending a force of his own to co-operate with Dhoondia Punt Gokla against Dhoondia Waug, a promise, however, which he well knew, Sindia would not fulfil That, notwithstanding his situation with respect to Sindia was such as to require his avoiding any measure which might give offence to that chief, his desire to evince his attachment to the Company and the Nizam, superseded this consideration and he would so far assent to my requisition as to admit three battalions of Infantry and 1,000 Cavalry of their troops within

his frontier, and direct Dhoondia Punt Gokla to form a junction with them and attack the insurgent.

To this communication I have answered that although the concession made by His Highness is a proof of his regard to the interests of the Company and the Nizam and to the tranquillity of their possessions, it may be inadequate to the object for which it is made, and that under the engagements which I have given him, the extent of our force which it may be necessary to pass into his territories must be to him a matter of indifference or rather beneficial in proportion to its strength, as accelerating the reduction of Dhoondiajee and consequently its return to the dominions of the allies.

If the Peshwa should still insist on limitation of numbers which I hope and believe he will not, I shall communicate to him your Lordship's instructions, conveyed to me by Colonel Kirkpatrick, from the Secret Department under date the 11th instant and received on the 28th.

At all the above mentioned conferences, occasion was taken to lead the Peshwa's Moonshies into discussion of his present situation and views, and to impress them with a conviction of the fallacy of any reliance on Sindia for the recovery of his authority or the preservation of his possessions. The Moonshies acknowledged that all experience was in opposition to such reliance, yet it appeared from their discourse that Baajy Rao is negotiating with that chieftain to withdraw his interference and to retire into Hindoostan.

Shankar Rao informed Meer Fukiruddin that Serjajee Ghautky had discovered to the Peshwa the intrigue of Emrut Rao at Sindia's Durbar to obtain power in the government independent of his brother, who, to counteract the Rao, had offered higher terms for the attainment of the objects mentioned in the last paragraph.

The Peshwa cannot now be unapprized of his resource in the friendly views of your Lordship and the Nizam, for his security against the dangers which threaten him from the ambition and rapacity of Sindia, and indeed it was hinted by Gopal Rao that a temporary aid to effect that object would be highly acceptable, but it seems that Baajy Rao's natural distrust or his prejudices are so deep-rooted that nothing except the prospect of inevitable and imminent destruction can prevail on him to admit a large and permanent force of the Company's troops within his dominions.

Sindia's fears of Lacawa Dada's power and designs being removed, he has sent Balloo Tautia and his brother Dhoondabah into confinement in the fortress of Ahmednagar, and will no doubt proceed without delay to the execution of his projects respecting the Peshwa which, there is

every reason to apprehend, are of a nature the most violent and unjust and which must, if Baajy Rao possesses any spirit or feeling, rouse him to resistance and to resentment by committing his person and Government to the protection of the Company and the Nizam.

No. 345—Palmer informs Col. Wellesley that the Peshwa refuses his assent to the admission of a force, in pursuit of the insurgent Dhordji Wagh, exceeding three battalions of Infantry and one thousand Cavalry.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—COLONEL WELLESLEY, COMMANDING ABOVE THE G HAUTS.

Poona, 2nd June 1800.

The Right Honourable the Governor General having been pleased to advise me of instructions being given to the Officer Commanding the expedition against the rebel Dhoondiajee Waug to pursue and attack him within the Mahratta frontier, if that measure should be necessary, and understanding from Colonel Close that you have taken the command in person, it may be of importance to apprize you of the reluctance of this Court to admit such a force of the allies within the Mahratta territories as may be required for the speedy and complete suppression of the rebellion

The Peshwa refuses his assent to the admission of a force exceeding three Battalions of Infantry and one thousand Cavalry I am however still in hopes that my representations will induce him to admit our troops without limitation of number But his consent will be suspicious, and it is to be apprehended that he may indirectly attempt to obstruct your progress and success by impeding your supplies by false intelligence and by various other means which, it will occur to you, may be secretly practised under the appearances of friendship and assistance by a people so artful and insidious as the Mahrattas I shall be happy if the Peshwa's conduct should render this caution unnecessary, but it is my duty to suggest it to you; and while you are prepared to act upon it, you have nothing to apprehend from open opposition by this Government, either as to its intention or ability.

The Peshwa, however, assures me that he has strongly enjoined Dhoondia Punt Gokla, commanding on the southern frontier, to attack and expel Dhoondiajee Waug from the Mahratta dominions; but I doubt that Sirdar's being in force to execute his orders, admitting them to have been really given, and I think you will find the rebel within the Peshwa's boundaries, as he will probably consider them as his safest asylum from your attack.

3rd June.

P.S.—Since closing my letter I have received the Peshwa's assent to your entering in his dominions in any force and given with such apparent cordiality as induces me to believe that his people will sincerely co-operate with you.

W. P.
Resident at Poona,
dated 6th June.

No. 346—The Resident reports to the G. G. the atrocities committed by Sindia and the reproaches heaped by him upon the Peshwa for seeking an alliance with the Company.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—THE MARQUIS OF WELLESLEY, K.P.

Poona, 6th June 1800.

I am credibly informed that Sindia lately made proposals to the Rajah at Sattara to take his daughter in marriage and to administer the government in his name as Dewan in the room of the Peshwa; but the Rajah thinking his person in more safety under the power of Baajy Rao than it would be under that of Sindia, declined the proposals and discovered them to the latter. At the same time Sindia proposed to strengthen his connection with the Rajah of Kolapore by a marriage between the Rajah's daughter and Serjajee Ghautky, and to aggrandize the Rajah's power by transferring to him possessions of the late Pursaram Bhow.

The dreadful and summary execution which Sindia lately caused of three of his principal Dewan Sirdars*, has more the appearance of

*Narayan Jivaji Bakshi, Dhondiba Dada, Yashavantrao Shivaji Wagle and many others were cruelly put to death by Daulatrao Sindia in May. See Chronology.

vengeance than of justice. These men were accused of conspiring to depose and murder him, but they had no trial, nor have any proofs of their guilt been produced, but it is to be remembered that they were partizans of the Bhyes and instrumental to the disgrace and confinement of Serjajee Ghautky. Hence the greatest dread is entertained by adherents of that cause and of Balloo Tautia; and a universal abhorrence of Sindia for his cruelty and perfidy prevails.

Gopal Rao told me at my visit to him that the Peshwa having judged it expedient to advise Sindia of his determination to admit the British troops into his dominions in pursuit of Dhoondiajee Waug, Sindia made strong objections to it, reproaching the Peshwa with his confidence in the Company's Government and offering to enjoin his own detachment in Kolapoor to attack and expel Dhoondiajee.

I am not quite convinced that the Peshwa has ventured to disclose this determination to Sindia, although I have on every occasion that he has made his apprehensions of Sindia a plea for declining your Lordship's proposals, endeavoured to persuade him of that chieftain's not daring to oppress him for favouring the views and interests of the British Government. I shall probably learn at Gopal Rao's intended visit to me whether His Highness is finally disposed to place his security on the alliance, to which your Lordship is desirous he should accede

No. 347—Palmer communicates to the G. C. the atrocious conduct of Bajirao towards several adherents of Nana Fadnis, who were treacherously apprehended after being invited to the palace for the ceremony of an heir being adopted by the widow of Nana.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY

Poona, 16th June 1800

Your Lordship will, I think, concur in the reasonableness of my apprehension, on remarking the delay and indifference exhibited by the Peshwa after the intimations which have been conveyed to him, from Azim-ul-Omrah and myself, of the friendly views of both our Governments for his honor and the preservation of his power, and more especially on learning the transaction of the 13th, detailed in the Persian news-papers transmitted to Mr Edmonstone, in which Baaj Rao acted a mean and

hypocritical part and for the unworthy purposes of gratifying his vengeance and rapacity to the ruin of men whose only crime is their attachment to the late Minister. To execute this scheme has been the subject of the late daily conferences between the Peshwa and Sindia's ministers, which ended in devising the stratagem of Sindia's repairing to the palace on the pretext of confirming, in concert with Baajy Rao, the adoption of a son to Nana Furnavees, and to which these persons were invited as the friends of the family. The prisoners are to be left at the disposal of Baajy Rao, on which condition he previously engaged to pay Sindia thirty-five laks of rupees, and the troops of that chieftain will probably retain their posts in the city until the obligation is discharged.

The Peshwa thought proper to send me notice of this transaction on the following morning with the slight and general mention of the cause, that "these men had deviated from their duty", to which I only answered that I understood his message.

No. 348—The Resident reports an attack by Sindia's troops on Shahmir Khan, a Pathan leader of Arab mercenaries and the desperate resistance offered by the latter, resulting in fearful slaughter on both sides in the city of Poona.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 17th June 1800.

I shall endeavour to remove by argument any objections which the Peshwa may offer to these cessions. I am prevented from making an immediate communication of the subject to him by the tumult and distraction which prevails in the city, in consequence of an attack made early this morning by Sindia's troops on Shahmir Khan, a Rohilla, who with about 200 horse and 3 or 400 Arabs, protected the habitation of Naroo Punt Chuckerdeo. These men having no chance of escape are making a desperate resistance from the apartments and roofs of houses; the Arabs in charge of the house of Nana Furnavees having fired upon Sindia's troops and taken possession of six cannons posted in front of it, are now sustaining an attack from two other pieces of cannon directed against the house in the rear. These people will be overpowered, but not before they have made great slaughter of their assailants.

No. 349—The seizure and ill treatment of Naropant Chakradev and Nana's other partisans and the release of Moroba Phadnis with a view to making him the minister of state by Bajirao, are the items communicated to the Governor General in this letter.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 20th June 1800.

The attacks made on Shahmir Khan and the Arabs in the city of which I had the honour to inform your Lordship on the 17th, terminated more favourably for them than I expected. The former continued his resistance until the house from which he defended himself was set on fire, when he surrendered on terms of life and liberty to himself and party. The Arabs in charge of Nana Furnavees's house were permitted to retire.

On the 18th Anund Rao, the colleague of Sheshadry Pundit, informed Meer Fukiruddin that the Peshwa on the preceding day sent for S. Pundit and stated to him that his reason for the seizure and confinement of Narroo Punt Chuckerdeo and the other dependants of Nana, was their having intrigued with Sindia to obtain the adoption of a son to Nana, and by that measure to control his authority and render him a mere pageant of State. The Peshwa further stated that Emrut Rao had encouraged this intrigue and that Sindia had proposed to secure his person also, but desisted at his (Baajy Rao's) earnest entreaty. His Highness concluded this relation with the highest applause of the loyalty, attachment and obedience of Sindia.

But the fact is not obvious that Narroo Pundit had Baajy Rao's express permission to treat with Sindia for the adoption and that the whole transaction was a train of deception concerted between the Peshwa, Sindia and Emrut Rao, to inspire a confidence in those unfortunate men to assemble at the palace where they might be seized without resistance, and to which they repaired on the faith of Emrut Rao for their safety. They are still in confinement and are daily tortured to extort a discovery of Nana's wealth and the surrender of their own.

Moraba Furnavees has been summoned to the Durbar by the Peshwa and is hourly expected. It is supposed that the office of Dewan will be conferred upon him and that the dependants of Nana will be transferred to his custody in consequence of a bargain concluded with the Peshwa to that effect. It is not likely that Baajy Rao will repose in Moraba or in any minister such confidence as will give him due weight and influence in the administration of affairs, or that Sindia will suffer him to exercise any act of authority independent of his control; but it may be presumed from Moraba's former conduct that he is well disposed to rely on the aid of the British Government for the safety of this state.

am informed that Sindia continues his aggressions against the Nizam by depredations in His Highness's territories, although I do not learn that any recent complaints of them have been made by His Highness's officers.

No. 350—The arrival of Moraba Phadnis and his reception by the Peshwa are reported in this letter.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 23rd June 1800.

The tranquillity of the city of Poona has been restored and seems to be secured by the suppression of the late commotion and the continuance of two battalions of Sindia's troops on guard at the palace.

Moraba Furnavees encamped yesterday evening in the vicinity of the town and some persons of distinction waited upon him this morning from the Peshwa. I am credibly informed that he is to be invested with the office of minister and that Emrut Rao will be put under personal restraint.

Yesterday Moonshy Gopal Rao informed Meer Fukiruddin at an interview in the city which he had desired for the purpose, that the Peshwa having intelligence of a detachment of the Company's troops from Goa being arrived on his southern frontier, he requested a letter from me to the commanding officer recommending a junction with the troops of Dhoondia Punt Gokla and Gunput Roy Paunsy, in order to co-operate in reducing the force of Dhoondiajee Waug. I observed in answer that the detachment to which the Peshwa alluded, would in all probability have repaired to Honelly the place of rendezvous for the army destined to proceed against Dhoondiajee. But at any rate the commanding officer of that detachment could not comply with such a requisition without the express authority of the Commander-in-chief, to whom I would write in the terms desired, if the Peshwa approved of it. He did approve of it and I immediately furnished him with a letter to Colonel Wellesley, signifying the Peshwa's desire that his troops should join the British forces whenever they should pass into the Mahratta territories, for the purpose above expressed, and I hope that if the Colonel should judge it expedient to adopt the measure, it will considerably facilitate his operations. The Peshwa dispatched my letter by his own couriers.

The Peshwa, Doulut Rao Sindia and Kashi Rao Holkar have just now set out to meet and compliment Moraba Furnavees on his arrival.

No. 350A—Col. Palmer writes to the Marquess Wellesley agreeing cheerfully to resign the charge of the Residency to Mr. Webbe.

Poonah, 27th June 1800

My Lord,

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 1st instant. I am perfectly sensible, my Lord, that the cares and fatigues of an arduous public station may require powers of mind and strength of constitution which in my precarious state of health and advanced time of life, it cannot be expected that I should possess. And no person would feel greater regret than myself, that your Lordship should suffer any apprehension or anxiety for the success of your important objects at this Court from my inability to promote it.

Impressed with this sentiment and conviction, I receive your Lordship's command to deliver over the charge of this residency to Mr. Webbe with equal cheerfulness and submission.

I request your Lordship to accept my grateful acknowledgments for your generous intention to provide for my future comfort, and for the favourable opinion which you are pleased to express of my conduct and character.

No. 351—Col. William Palmer was indisposed. His assistant W. G. Palmer reports an action on 29th June between Dhondia Wagh and the Peshwa's troops which were defeated, and in which Dhondopant Gokhle and his nephew were killed.

FROM—W G. PALMER, ASSISTANT,

TO—THE MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 9th July, 1800.

Colonel Palmer being yet unable to write, directs me to inform your Lordship that intelligence was received last night by Emrut Rao, of Dhoondiajee Waug having attacked Dhoondia Punt Gokla in his camp and totally defeated him, and that this unfortunate chief and his nephew fell in the action.

No. 352—Palmer communicates Bajirao's desire for the temporary assistance of the Company's troops to enable him to free himself from his thralldom to Sindia; Bajirao however was not prepared for a permanent alliance.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 27th June 1800.

The arrival of Moraba Furnavees at Poona has not yet been productive of any change in the administration of the Peshwa's affairs. And I am informed that Moraba hesitates to accept of the dewanny until he can be assured of possessing the entire confidence of Baajy Rao and of the complete removal of Sindia's ascendancy and interference. Such assurances will probably be given to him, but nobody expects that they will be sincere.

Sindia's troops have been withdrawn from the palace and Narroo Pundit and the three prisoners confined there, have been conveyed to the fortress of Seonair.

At the first of the interviews above mentioned Gopal Rao gave some intimation of Baajy Rao's wish to be relieved from the subjection in which he is held by Sindia by military aid from the British Government; but as his discourse indicated that the force to be required would not be retained after the service should be performed, Fukiruddin took no notice of the suggestion, and I instructed him in case the subject should be repeated at the subsequent interview, to answer that he knew your Lordship's views to extend to a permanent re-establishment of the Peshwa's authority and an indissoluble union of interests and security between the two States, and that I must decline to prefer any overtures for a temporary object, and which, when accomplished, should our troops be withdrawn, would leave His Highness exposed to all the dangers from which we might rescue him. The subject however was not revived.

Meer, Fukiruddin attended Doulut Rao Sindia on the 25th. That chieftain after expressing his great satisfaction at the harmony which had so long subsisted between the Company's Government and his own, under his predecessor and himself, and his desire to communicate to your Lordship at all times his situation and views, proceeded to relate that he had received intelligence of Dhoondiajee Waug having reduced some small forts and exacted heavy contributions in the Mahratta dominions and was at this time with a force of 10,000 Cavalry and 15,000 Infantry at Shahnoor. That he had dispatched orders to his detachment which is in the vicinity of Dambal, to proceed against this free-booter, and

had no doubt of its success. He made no enquiry concerning the British force assembling on the Tumbudra. He next stated his apprehensions of the designs of Lacawa Dada in concert with the Rajahs of Odipore and Joudpore, the Bhyes and Esswunt Rao Holkar, which he was preparing to defeat by an augmentation of force and counter alliances in Hindoostan. He then repeated his request that Lacawa might not find an asylum in the dominions of the Company or its allies. After this discourse Sindia notified to Fukiruddin that he had transferred the management of his concerns with the British Government from Bhow Bukshy to Serjajee Ghautky, and desired that the latter might have permission to visit me, when he would make further communications.

From the last intimation I conclude that all which went before it, was preparatory to some propositions which Serjajee is instructed to make for your Lordship's consideration, and to which he hopes to engage your attention by a display of candour and confidence respecting his own affairs. I have of course answered that I am ready to receive Serjajee whenever it suits him to call upon me.

No. 353.—The Resident reports among other matters that Moroba Phadnis had declined to accept the ministership of the Peshwa and that Sindia was trying to force one of his own nominees on the Peshwa for that office.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 14th July 1800.

The affairs of this Government have remained in the same state of suspense and uncertainty as when I had the honour to address your Lordship under date the 30th ultimo before my indisposition.

Moroba Furnavees being thoroughly disgusted at observing that the Peshwa gives his confidence exclusively to such mean persons as Balwunt Rao Nagonant and Balloo Khoonjer, has positively declined to engage in the ministry, and desired permission to retire to his Jagir. Baajy Rao himself wishes to have no efficient minister, but I understand that Sindia is determined to give him one, and will probably assume the office of Dewan in his own name.

Sindia peremptorily insists upon the removal of Emrut Rao to his Jagir and his requisition must be complied with, though the Peshwa may think it decent to shew some hesitation.

The Peshwa and Doulut Rao judge it expedient at this time to exhibit some appearances of hostile preparation, the former having summoned the feudatory chieftains of the empire to repair to Poona with their respective contingencies, and the latter having issued a considerable sum for the declared purpose of supplying his artillery with ammunition and stores for field service.

I am persuaded that these measures have no other object than to give an impression of this state being in a respectable posture of defence, while the contending armies of the Company and Dhoondiajee Waug are within its territories, for it appears to me impracticable, under the actual circumstances of this empire, to assemble such an army as would be adequate to the purposes of offensive war. Public rumour, however, destines the intended force to the invasion of the dominions of His Highness the Nizam.

Intelligence is received at the Peshwa's Durbar of Colonel Wellesley having passed the Tumbudra, but no mention is made of any subsequent progress of the British army nor of the position of Dhoondiajee Waug in consequence of its approach.

Sindia's detachment on the southern frontier is occupied in reducing Pursaram Bhow's Jagir transferred to him by the Peshwa, in contradiction to the assertion of Serjajee Ghautky that it had been ordered to oppose Dhoondia Waug.

Gobind Kishan Kauli is released from confinement and, as I am informed, at the instance of His Highness the Nizam obtained by the Peshwa's agents at Hyderabad, who are the immediate dependents of Gobind Kishan. But to whatever cause this man owes his liberation, his determined and constant opposition to the British interests and influence may be expected.

No. 354—Palmer reports to the Governor General a requisition of Sindia that the British army had no necessity to enter the Maratha territory in pursuit of Dhondia Wag and that it should be directed to remain within its own frontier.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 19th July 1800.

I am willing to believe that these interesting communications so unexpectedly made by the Peshwa, are ascribable to a serious intention of resorting to the power and friendship of the Company and the Nizam

or relief from the degrading subjection in which he is held by Sindia, aggravated by the violent agency and detestable character of Serjajee Shautky. Yet such is the dissimulation and duplicity of which Baajy Rao is capable, that his object may be no other than to impress his allies with a confidence in his steady attachment and friendship while their united force is acting within his dominions against Dhoondiajee Waug, and may be readily applied to the enforcing of any requisitions which suspicion of his unfriendly intention might render necessary to the security of the combined Powers. That he has some apprehensions of his nature appears probable from the pains which he has taken at this instance of time, to exculpate himself from the blame of neglecting to furnish his contingent in the late war with Tippoo Sultan.

As Munshy Gopal Rao or his brother is to call upon Fukiruddin to learn my opinion of the answer which the Peshwa should give to Azim-ul Omra's message, I have instructed my Moonshy to say that if Baajy Rao is sincerely disposed to form engagements with the Company and Nizam of a similar nature to those which they have contracted with each other, I know that it will be perfectly agreeable to your Lordship that the treaty required to that effect should be mediated by His Highness, on the part of the Company, as a mode of negotiation possessing many obvious advantages, not attainable by the circuitous and dilatory intercourse of my agency. I therefore recommended it to him to invite Azim-ul Omra to a more explicit declaration of his object, and to rely on the sincere desire of that minister to see him engaged in an alliance which would permanently secure his authority and protect his dominions.

On the 17th Doulut Rao Sindia desired the attendance of Meer Fukiruddin, who accordingly waited upon him that evening. Sindia after some enquiries concerning the force under the command of Colonel Wellesley, observed that there was no necessity for its passing into the Mahratta territories in pursuit of Dhoondia Waug, as he had appointed a strong detachment of his own troops (and which was to be reinforced by those of the Rajah of Kolapore) to attack and reduce the force of Dhoondiajee. He therefore requested that the British army might be directed to remain on its own frontier.

Meer Fukiruddin could only answer to this extraordinary requisition that he would report it to me. I have the honour to enclose a translation of my reply to it which, a desire to evince the reason and justice of every proceeding of your Lordship's Government, has induced me to make more explanatory than Sindia is entitled to expect, from a demand so unauthorized by his relation to the Company or his station in the Mahratta empire.

As the Peshwa seems to have withheld from Sindia any notice of his consent to admit the British troops into his territories, I was apprehensive

that my information of it to the latter might be injurious to the Peshwa ; and I do not conceive that there is any necessity on the part of your Lordship for such a justification to Sindia.

It is not improbable that Sindia has motives for favouring the invasion of Dhoondiajee. If he sincerely desires the expulsion of that depredator, he has had it in his power to effect it by a junction of his force with that of the Rajah of Kolapore and Dhoondia Punt Gokla ; but I do not apprehend that he will venture to afford Dhoondiajee any open assistance.

Not the smallest progress is made in assembling the feudatory force of this state in obedience to the summons of the Peshwa, nor does Sindia's camp exhibit any appearance of hostile preparation.

No. 355—This paper contains an important declaration of Bajirao made at a conference with the Resident's Munshi. Bajirao explains away the seeming irregularities of his past conduct.

Translation of a report made to the Resident by Meer Fakhiruddin of his conference with the Peshwa on the 16th July 1800, Poona.

Having repaired to the Dewankhana of Baajy Rao, where I met with Gopal Rao Moonshy, I enquired of him whether he had received any intelligence of Dhoondia Waug. He informed me, that advices had arrived to the following effect. "Dhoondia Punt Gokla was encamped at a place of which I have forgot the name, but within a small distance of Dhoondiajee's army. Gokla observing, that the force of the insurgent greatly exceeded his own, and that it would be rash to remain in his present position, determined to retreat and form a junction with the British army. He in consequence sent off his baggage and stores in the morning early, remaining himself on the ground of his encampment with 2,000 horse and four pieces of cannon to cover the retreat. Just as he was ready to move Dhoondia in person made his appearance with a body of 7,000 or 8,000 horse, and immediately attacked him. In this action Bapojee Gunaish, the nephew of Gokla, and Chintamun Rao of Meritch being wounded, fled with about 400 horse towards the British camp. Gokla continuing to engage the enemy, was slain, as was another of his nephews ; his troops were plundered and dispersed and the four guns fell into the hands of Dhoondia Waug, who having cut off the heads

of Gokla and his nephew, exposed them on pikes in his camp and pursued the fugitive troops. The latter fortunately reached the British camp, though Dhoondia Waug pursued them so closely as to be fired upon by its artillery, when he retreated and sent the heads of the unfortunate Sirdars, Gokla and his nephew, to their relation, Bapojee Gunaisb " *

I then enquired if the Durbar had received any advices of the situation of the British army Gopal Rao answered, that by the latest accounts it was at Hurryhuraishwar, within ten or twelve coss of Shanoor When the Moonshy had finished this relation, the Peshwa appeared To him I made your compliments and he, in return, enquired concerning your health. After which, addressing himself to me, he said, "you are fully informed of the state of affairs in this Government, you will recollect that on the return of Balloo Tautia to Sindia's ministry, I informed you that I had sworn to observe a conciliatory conduct towards him and that, when Sindia disgraced and confined this minister a second time, he previously waited on me in order to make it appear that this act was in consequence of my advice or consent To preserve my reputation from the stain which is thus thrown upon it, I am very anxious that Tautia should obtain his liberty, but am apprehensive that my interposition would endanger his life. I have therefore been silent In Sindia's councils there is no discretion. The execution of Dhoondabah and Eswunt Rao Sewajee are shocking in my sight These men were of a division of the Brahmin caste and no person heretofore has, in so disgraceful a mode, put a Brahmin to death This is the time of Serjajee Ghautky's power It remains to be seen what further use he will make of it, although Doulut Rao Sindia, from the first of our connection, has had a cordial attachment to me and is by no means desirous that any injury should be offered to me, yet I am very apprehensive of the designs of his servants, and God knows what may happen Until this time I have been in the power of my ministers, during the ministry of Nanna Furnavees I acted entirely by his advice, and after his death by that of Narroo Punt Chuckerdeo and other dependants of Nanna As these persons meditated my ruin, they have been removed and secured and I can now say that I am independent in my government The preservation and prosperity of my country and friendship and good faith towards my allies, are my indispensable duties This is one object to be declared Another is,—that when Nanna came from Mahr and I was placed on the Musnud, and Balloo Tautia, by the advice of Nanna and concert of Azim-ul Omra, was put in confinement, Nanna by insinuations of my reluctance to fulfil the conditions of the treaty of Mahr, rendered Azim-ul Omra suspicious of me, and that minister departed from Poona in anger without taking leave of me. But at that time as affairs were entirely at the disposal

*Dhondopant Gokhle and his nephew Mahadev alias Appa were killed Appa's brother Narahar alias Bapu escaped wounded These two brothers were the sons of Ganesh, younger brother of Dhondopant

of Nanna and I had confidence in his wisdom, I was under no uneasiness at this circumstance. Now that I am master of my own concerns, I am anxious to erase from the mind of Azimul-Omra any unfavourable impressions which he may retain of me, and for this object I have desired Shesaudry Pundit to repair to Hyderabad and explain my real disposition and situation, which can be done more circumstantially by verbal detail than in writing, and I also requested of this Vakeel to write in the meantime to His Highness the Nizam that I am desirous of maintaining our friendship and connection on the footing on which it subsisted in the time of Nanna. Let mutual harmony and friendship be preserved. What has Azimul-Omra now done? In answer to this intimation from me he writes,—That the relations of amity and a close union of interests and security being at this time established between the Company and the Nizam, it is advisable that I should enter into a similar connection with the other two allied powers. This is the purport of Azimul Omra's message. If I have not repeated it word for word, there is no difference substantially. I am much perplexed what answer to give, since between the Company and this Sircar the necessary relations of amity and union already subsist, and if I entertained a desire to improve them, why should I not communicate it to the Resident rather than use the mediation of the Nizam? Since the Colonel has evinced his regard to the prosperity of this State and at every visit which he has made to me, suggested that the distractions which prevail in it, can only be composed by the aid of friendly powers, why should I resort to any other mediation than his? I therefore wish you to obtain the Colonel's opinion of the answer proper to be given to Azimul-Omra, that while I decline his interposition, I may not give him such cause of displeasure as might induce him to represent me in an unfavourable light to the Governor General; for, as that minister is already indisposed towards me, he will not neglect to injure me, if I should give him the smallest pretext of umbrage. But you will ask the Colonel's opinion on this subject as from yourself, and do not mention it as my request". I answered the Peshwa that I could by no means conceal from you that he had made this request, and that if he was desirous of having your advice I must make the request in his name. The Peshwa did not, however, consent that I should mention the subject in his name, but desired it might be stated as the suggestion of Moonshy Gopal Rao, and that an answer might be returned without delay. The other subjects of the conference, the Peshwa said, I might relate as imparted by himself, but that the greatest caution should be observed to prevent any part of them from transpiring. He added, that he was above all things intent on maintaining his friendship with the Company and on no account had separate views or interests. He further asserted that in the late war with Tippoo Sultan, he had not been negligent in preparing to act with his allies. At that time Nanna desired to take the command of the forces assembling, whose object was by this means to extricate himself

from the dissensions in the state; and, said the Peshwa, as I was apprehensive for my own safety on account of Balloo Tautia being then restored to the management of Sindia's affairs, and Nanna's practice was to injure me in the opinion of whomsoever had the conduct of that government, I therefore refused to permit Nanna's leaving the city and told him, that if he was determined to depart, notwithstanding my refusal, I would accompany him, but that I thought it advisable to appoint another Sirdar to the command and to dispatch him at the head of 25,000 horse to the Mysore war. In consequence of my advice and resolution, Pursaram Bhow was nominated to the command, and although I was justly offended with that Sirdar, I remitted the fine to which he had been condemned, and bestowed upon him the fortress of Dharwar and a portion of lands for the subsistence of his troops. By the favour of the almighty, the allies were victorious. But on my part, there was no neglect or deficiency. At this time I have been assiduous in providing for the reduction of Dhoondia Waug and obtained from the Colonel a letter to the British commander, recommending the junction of that Sirdar with his army. It has pleased God that Gokla has fallen, but that I am still occupied in measures for bringing the insurgents to punishment in concert with the Company's forces. Here Gopal Row informed the Peshwa that he had obtained another letter from you to Colonel Wellesley, advising him of the appointment of Bapojee Gunaish to succeed Dhoondia Punt Gokla, and requesting that the new commander might be permitted to join and co-operate with the British army. The Peshwa lastly informed me that Doulut Rao Sindia being inimical to Emrut Rao, it would be imprudent in the latter to remain at Poona and he would therefore remove to his Jagir.

No. 356—Palmer reports the departure of Amritrao to Lohgad with a view to forming a confederacy with the ladies against Sindia.

FROM—Wm PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY

Poona, 22nd July 1800.

This morning Emrut Rao retired from Poona, not to his Jagir as was given out to be his intention, but to Loghur, a hill fortress at the distance of thirty miles from Poona in the Jagir of Nanna Furnavees, and still held in his name. A person who attended the Rao a part of the way, informs

me that he purposes to proceed to Bombay, but I am of opinion that his real design is to join the Bhyes and form a confederacy against Sindia.

A rumour prevails in this town of Colonel Wellesley's having totally defeated and dispersed the force of Dhoondia Waug, and that the rebel himself has fled across the Tumbudrah, but no direct intelligence of this event has been received at the Peshwa's Durbar.

Nothing further occurs at present in the transactions of this State meriting your Lordship's attention.

No. 357—The Resident mentions that Bajirao preferred flight, in case of danger, to the protection of the British troops, and that Amritrao had gone to Bassein where he was within easy reach of Bombay.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 29th July 1800.

No communication has been made to me from the Peshwa since I had last the honour to address your Lordship, although I signified to him immediately on receiving Meer Fukiruddin's report of his interview with His Highness, my ready acquiescence in his desire that I would confide in any propositions which may be made to me in his name by Emrut Rao, Moroba Furnavees or Moonshy Gopal Rao.

But understanding that a general alarm prevailed in the city of immediate violence from Sindia in resentment of Emrut Rao's retreat, I sent Meer Fukiruddin to learn of Gopal Rao or his brother the Peshwa's real situation and intentions, instructing him if he should find the danger imminent, to encourage a reliance on your Lordship's protection and ultimate support, provided His Highness would immediately enter into such engagements as you desired to form as much with a view to the permanent interests and security of this state as to those of the Company and its allies and the general tranquillity of Hindustan.

Gopal Rao was attending the Peshwa without the city, but Fukiruddin met with Shunker Rao, who informed him in answer to his enquiries

that the Peshwa since his explanation to Sindia of his motives for permitting the departure of Emrut Rao, had received the clearest assurances from that chieftain in person of his being perfectly satisfied on this occasion, and of his unalterable attachment.

Meer Fikiruddin observed that the Peshwa had sufficient experience of Sindia's insidious professions, to which Shunker Rao replied that His Highness by no means placed implicit dependence upon them, but if Sindia should meditate evil designs against him, an interval of ten or fifteen days would ensue before he could attempt to execute them, which would afford the Peshwa leisure to form his final resolutions as circumstances may require. But Shunker Rao did not mention why this period of suspense would take place.

This state of the Peshwa's supposed temporary security being different from that to which I had adopted my directions for making advances to treat with him, Fikiruddin left Shunker Rao without any further conversation passing between them .

I am persuaded that the Peshwa and Sindia are mutually attempting to deceive each other, the latter in his professions and the former in affecting to believe them. But that Baajy Rao should prefer flight to the protection offered by his allies, is unaccountable on any other supposition than that of his apprehending his life to be in danger so long as he is in the power of Sindia.

Captain Kirkpatrick having forwarded to me an extract of a letter to him from Lieut.-Colonel Close, in which it is mentioned that Colonel Wellesley had received intelligence of the Rajah of Kolapore having sent a body of troops to the assistance of Dhoondia Waug, and that it is the current opinion in the southern quarter of the Mahratta territories that Sindia has for some time supported that insurgent, I have requested permission to send Meer Fikiruddin to attend the Peshwa for the purposes of stating these circumstances, and of urging in the most earnest manner the necessity of a cordial co-operation of His Highness's troops with those of the Company, and of his permitting the British commander to occupy any posts in his dominions which may be required for facilitating the suppression of an invader who is now become more formidable to this state than to the Company or the Nizam, by local situation and the powerful support which, it is asserted, he receives from two of its principal members.

Emrut Rao has reached Bassein where he is in perfect security, his maternal uncle being Soubadar of the district, and Bombay within two or three hours' passage of the fortress. I rejoice at his escape, as it affords a chance of at least one member of the Peshwa's family remaining to be opposed to the unjust pretensions and dangerous ambition of Sindia.

No. 358—Bajirao is reported to be making overtures for entertaining a British force for his protection, but he was not prepared to enter into a permanent and definite alliance, as proposed by the G. G.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 2nd August 1800.

Yesterday evening Moonshy Gopal Rao desired an interview with Meer Fukiruddin in the city, which took place accordingly, when the former stated in substance that the distractions of this state were well-known to the British Government and that Peshwa promised himself from the ancient alliance subsisting between him and the Company and the interest which your Lordship has manifested in his prosperity, that you would assist him with a force for the re-establishment of his authority, and that he would cheerfully defray the expense of it during its employment on that service.

As I had expected a proposal from the Peshwa for the aid of either a small permanent detachment or a large temporary force, I had instructed Meer Fukiruddin to answer by saying that neither of these measures would meet your Lordship's views, of not only re-establishing but maintaining the Peshwa's authority, and by a union of the three powers to preserve the tranquillity of India. Fukiruddin therefore discouraged any expectation of your Lordship's interposition except to the extent of your Lordship's objects and on the conditions already proposed.

No. 359—Palmer informs Col. Wellesley that Sindia was not likely to risk a conflict with the British power by openly assisting Dhondia Wagh.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

Poona, 4th August 1800.

I have had the honour to receive the duplicate of your letter of the 11th ultimo, in answer to my letter to you of the 28th June.

It may afford you satisfaction to be informed, that your restoring to the agent of Pursaram Bhow's sons the places belonging to their Jagir

which you have recovered from Dhoondia Waug, will be very acceptable to the Peshwa, who secretly favours those chieftains and encourages them to resist Sindia in taking possession of the country, though the latter has obtained or rather extorted from him a sunnud for the transfer of it

Having observed in an extract of a letter from Colonel Close to Captain Kirkpatrick that you had received intelligence of the Rajah of Kolapure giving aid to Dhoondia, I represented to Sindia that he would subject himself to the suspicion of conniving at, if not of actually encouraging this hostility towards us, unless he used the entire influence which he is known to possess over the Rajah to withdraw him from his connection with the insurgent

Sindia in answer has solemnly assured me that the information is false and must have been given to you for the purpose of rendering him suspected by the British Government; and he repeated the assurances which he had before given to me, of his having concerted with the Rajah a junction of their forces in order to attack the invader

Without trusting much to the latter declaration or to Sindia's attachment to the Company's interests, I can readily believe from the distracted state of his government and the dispersion of his force, that he will carefully avoid to draw upon himself the resentment of the British power

I have intimated to the Peshwa, that it may be necessary for the benefit of the common cause to permit you in your progress against Dhoondia to occupy some post in His Highness's dominions, capable of being made a secure depot of provisions for your army. He expressed a sincere desire to assist your operations, and I am in hopes that if you should require any post for the purpose above mentioned, or as a point of support, that it will be conceded for such time as the scene of action may be confined to the Mahratta territories.

No. 360—The Resident reports fresh proposals made by Bajirao through his Munshi for securing British help whenever he found it necessary.

FROM—Wm PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY

Poona, 11th August 1800

Yesterday the Peshwa sent Moonshy Gopal Rao to me with his answer to the communications made by Meer Fikiruddin at his last interview with that Moonshy.

Gopal Rao first recurred to the long existing divisions in this state and the dangers to which they exposed the Peshwa's persons and government, especially since Serjajee Ghautky who is restrained by no motives of justice or humanity and dreads no consequences, has acquired an entire ascendancy over the mind of Sindia. The Peshwa's ultimate hope of safety from the designs of this daring and unprincipled man rested, the Moonshy said, on your Lordship's friendly disposition towards him, and your consideration for an ancient ally in distress who is desirous to connect himself with the British Government by such engagements as may ensure their mutual safety and interests. For this purpose His Highness' is willing to concede the points which had occasioned the rupture of my negotiations last year. The Moonshy added that the Peshwa perfectly relied on my representing his situation and proposal in such favourable light as would incline your Lordship to accede to the latter.

I assured Gopal Rao of my sincere regard for the Peshwa's welfare and that I would faithfully state to your Lordship his representations and objects; but that a change of circumstances since the discussion alluded to, had made it indispensable to require from His Highness some stipulations in addition to those contained in the treaty proposed at that time. I then informed him of the necessity which your Lordship would be under of applying for the subsidiary force in the service of the Nizam to co-operate with the troops of the Company, for the immediate restoration of the Peshwa's authority, and of the cession of Choute and complete execution of the treaty of Mahr, which your Lordship had stipulated in return for this important service to be performed principally by His Highness's assistance.

Gopal Rao here interrupted me by saying that he was afraid the Peshwa would on no consideration be induced to relinquish his claim to Choute on the Nizam, and that in effect the condition for which this cession is required already subsists, His Highness being bound to assist the Peshwa in recovering his authority in return for the cession of Choute of Bedra, an engagement with which your Lordship was perhaps unacquainted. And with respect to fulfilling the stipulations of the treaty of Mahr, the differences which had subsisted were already adjusted.

I answered that your Lordship had been duly informed of the agreement concluded by the Nizam's Vakeels at this Court for the release of the Peshwa's share of Choute on the province of Bedra, but not that it has been ratified by His Highness, nor did I until this moment understand that to be the case. Nor had I ever heard that the treaty of Mahr had been finally adjusted. Gopal Rao assured me that the agreement relating to Bedar was confirmed under the Nizam's own signature and that no difference remained on the stipulations of Mahr.

I urged to Gopal Rao the motives of present danger and future advantage to the Peshwa for determining His Highness to an immediate acceptance of the terms held out to him by his allies. But he said, the Peshwa would wait the result of a reference to your Lordship on the proposal which he had now advanced, and when I discouraged any delay as hazardous to the Peshwa and useless to his object, Gopal Rao answered, that His Highness was confident of security until the Dussarah, by which time your Lordship's sentiments might be known, and that it was highly probable a change in them would be induced by the present information of subsisting engagements between this Court and that of Hyderabad.

I have no expectation that my negotiation will advance until your Lordship's final instructions shall arrive, but if the Peshwa finding himself deceived in his confidence of safety for so long a period, shew a desire to renew the discussion, I will exert my utmost endeavours to bring it to a successful conclusion in conformity to the advices which I may receive of the state and prospect of the Resident at Hyderabad's negotiations.

Gopal Rao did not make any remarks on the other articles of your Lordship's instructions to me of the 12th of April, which are new propositions or differ from the points which were adjusted in the treaty discussed last year, but considered them as out of the question until your Lordship's requisitions on the part of the Nizam should be disposed of. But I am apprehensive that the Peshwa will not consent to subsidize a permanent force of the Company's troops to such an extent as your Lordship will judge necessary, for securing all the objects of the proposed alliance.

No. 361—Palmer communicates to Col Arthur Wellesley his remarks on the proposals made by the latter for the Peshwa's consideration, for effecting peace and tranquillity in the south.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—COLONEL WELLESLEY.

Poona, 11th August 1800.

I sincerely congratulate you on the success of your operations against Dhoondia Waug who, I hope, will not be able long to elude your pursuit, or procrastinate his fate.

I communicated to the Peshwa, without loss of time, your having recovered from Dhoondia the forts of Dummul and Gudduck, and having released Jeevajee Punt, late Killadar of the former, whom you found a prisoner in irons and put him in charge of both places. His Highness expressed great satisfaction at your friendly proceeding on this occasion.

Your reflections on the causes which have laid the Mahratta frontier open to the incursions of Dhoondia and exposed the possessions of the Company and its allies to the depredations of that robber, appear to me to be perfectly just, and the remedy which you propose, judicious. The Peshwa's confidential Moonshy having called upon me yesterday, I stated to him your reasoning and intention on these subjects, and requested that he would recommend it to the Peshwa to support your efforts for reconciling the Rajah of Kolapore with the sons of Pursaram Bhow. The Moonshy promised to comply with my request, but observed that the Peshwa having transferred to Sindia the adjustment of his claims upon the Rajah to be closed within a period of two months, of which twenty days were unexpired, it was to be apprehended that the Peshwa could not interfere in the differences between the Rajah and the sons of Pursaram Bhow while Sindia's negotiations were depending.

Besides this consideration, the Peshwa having granted a Sunnud to Sindia of the Jagir held by the sons of Pursaram Bhow and a strong detachment of the troops of that chieftain being at hand to take possession, any agreement which you might effect between the parties would be delusive, and I much doubt whether the Peshwa in any circumstances would consent to such an extension of Jagir to the sons of Pursaram Bhow as you suggest.

Sindia continues to assure me of his entire disposition to assist your operations if circumstances should require it, and of his having given orders to the commanding officer of his troops to act in concert with the Rajah of Kolapore to this effect.

No. 362—Palmer informs Col. Wellesley that Bajirao had appointed Ganapatrao Pansay to the supreme command of Maratha troops operating in the south, and that he should be consulted in all important measures for putting down the rebel Dhondji Wagh.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—COLONEL WELLESLEY.

Poona, 17th August 1800.

The Peshwa desires me to represent to you, that having as I have already had the honour to inform you, appointed Gunput Rao Paunsy

to the chief command of his forces on the southern frontier, the sons of Pursaram Bhow, the successor of the late Dhoondia Punt Gokhla and all other Mahratta Sirdars who may have joined you with the troops under their respective Commands, will act in subordination to Gunput Rao and conform to such arrangements as that Officer may concert with you. His Highness therefore requests, that you will please on all points which may relate to his separate interests, to take the opinion and advice of Gunput Rao and to permit this Commander to appoint officers and troops to the charge of such places in the Mahratta territories as you may recover from Dhoondia Waug.

His Highness further desires me to apprise you, that having been compelled by Sindia to grant a purwannah for the surrender to that chief of all places within the Jagir of the late Pursaram Bhow, it is by no means his wish that this circumstance should influence your conduct in opposition to the request above made, relating to such places as you may retake from the common enemy.

Sindia yesterday detailed two of his regular battalions to Kolapore, where five battalions are already stationed. The avowed object of this force is to support the Rajah against Dhoondia Waug. The real purpose is, I believe, to obtain possession of Pursaram Bhow's Jagir. I have no apprehension that this force will attempt to obstruct your operations against the rebel, indeed, Sindia continues to declare that it is ordered to attack him.

No. 363—The Secretary to Govt. makes an important communication to the Resident at Poona, conveying to him the G. G.'s instructions how he should act in case the Peshwa was either deposed or imprisoned by Sindia. The G. G.'s full explanation of the contemplated measures will be found in his despatch to the Governor of Madras dated 23rd August 1800 (printed by Martin, Vol. II)

FROM—Wm. KIRKPATRICK, SECRETARY TO GOVT.

TO—COLONEL PALMER.

Fort William, 26th August 1800.

The Governor General desires me to observe that the necessity of any communication to the Peshwa on the subject of his Lordship's dispatch to Lord Clive will depend on the actual state of affairs at Poona,

when you shall receive this letter. If the authority of the Peshwa should continue to be ostensibly recognised by Sindia, it will be proper to apprise His Highness, on the part of the Governor General, of the consideration which appear to his Lordship to render it necessary that the British troops should continue to occupy some time longer the districts from which they have expelled Dhoondia Waug; but if, on the other hand, the authority of Baajy Rao should have been openly superseded by Sindia, or if His Highness should have made any private disclosure to you to that effect, no communication on the subject will be necessary.

With respect to the proposed occupancy by the British forces of all the Mahratta districts situated to the southward of the Kishna, as that measure is to be adopted only in the event of the flight of Baajy Rao from Poona, or of the seizure and imprisonment of his person by Doulut Rao Sindia, the Governor General is not aware that any advantage would be gained by a communication to the Peshwa of His Lordship's provisional intentions so long as His Highness shall remain in the power of Sindia. On the other hand many inconveniences might result from a premature disclosure of the Governor General's plan, which would be but too probable a consequence of its being made known to Baajy Rao while he continued in the power of Sindia. On this point however, the Governor General thinks it necessary to authorise you to exercise your discretion, lest circumstances not at present in His Lordship's contemplation, should arise which might render a full and unreserved communication on the subject with the Peshwa expedient.

The Governor General is desirous that you should, if practicable, prevail on the Peshwa to reinstate the families of Pursaram Bhow in the temporary government of the districts lately administered by that chieftain. His Lordship is satisfied on a view of all circumstances that the Peshwa's interests would eventually be likely to be considerably promoted by such an arrangement which His Lordship, if required by the Peshwa, would have no objection to guarantee. In the case of the Peshwa's deposition or imprisonment by Doulut Rao Sindia, you are to endeavour to obtain this object of the persons who have been provisionally appointed by His Highness to act for him.

The reason why the Governor General is not desirous that anything more than the temporary charge of the country in question should be bestowed on the sons of Pursaram Bhow is, that in the event of a British subsidiary force being hereafter established at Poona, and of its being stipulated that a suitable territory should be assigned to the Company in lieu of subsidy, the districts which his Lordship would most probably select for this purpose would be those lately governed by Pursaram Bhow, or at least those ceded to the Mahratta state by Tippoo Sultan at the peace of Seringapatam in 1792. Consequently the confirmation of any servant of the Peshwa whatever in the permanent government of those

districts, would be at variance with the Governor General's views, and is accordingly, if possible, to be prevented.

In the possible event of Baajy Rao's deposal and of the elevation of any other person to the Peshwaship by Doulut Rao Sindia, the Governor General directs you not to acknowledge such Peshwa; and to repair immediately to Bombay; unless you should have reason to think that your continuance at Poona for any time after the stated event might conduce in any respect to the public interest, and be also personally safe with regard to yourself.

Whenever Baajy Rao shall flee from Poona or shall be deposed or imprisoned, you are to transmit immediate advice of the event to the Governor of Bombay, in order that that Government may forthwith prepare for the field the force provisionally directed to be held in readiness to march towards Poona by the Governor General's secret instructions of the 17th of April last to the Honourable Mr Duncan. You will in like manner forward an advice of the event to the Government of Fort Saint George and to the Officer Commanding in Mysore.

If a treaty for re-establishing and maintaining the Peshwa in his just authority should not have been concluded between you and His Highness (on the terms prescribed by the Governor General's instructions) previous to the deposal or imprisonment of Baajy Rao, the negotiations for such a treaty must, in either of these events, be opened and concluded with the least practicable delay with the persons who have been secretly empowered by Baajy Rao to act for him in that case. If Baajy Rao should flee and effect his escape to Bombay or to Hyderabad or to any other place where the British Government can have free communication with him, it will be proper that the negotiations for the treaty and alliance in question should be carried on immediately with His Highness.

No. 364—The Resident reports that the Peshwa's desire to form an alliance with the British was opposed by a faction headed by Sadashiv Mankeshwar, although Munshi Gopalrao supported such a connection.

FROM—Wm PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 29th August 1800.

I paid my respects to the Peshwa on the 27th at his anniversary celebration of the festival of Gunnaish and was received with more than

ordinary courtesy and affability. His Highness introduced me to the sons of Hurry Pundit Furkia and purposed to have introduced me to Morobah Furnavees, but he did not attend as was expected.

At this visit the Peshwa informed me that he had directed his troops, serving with Colonel Wellesley, to join those of Sindia and the Rajah of Kolapore in order to oppose the entrance of Dhoondia Waug into the Rajah's territories. This measure has, I believe, been adopted at the instance of Sindia, who is jealous of the junction of the Peshwa's forces with the British army and perhaps, apprehensive that the latter may be instructed to enforce satisfaction of the Company's demands on the Rajah, which the presence of the Peshwa's troops may tend to avert.

This opinion of Sindia's suspicions is in some degree corroborated by Moonshy Gopal Rao's having at a meeting which he yesterday desired with Fukiruddin, enquired whether any compensation would be accepted for the Company's claims on the Rajah.

Fukiruddin was not prepared for this question. But being apprized of the views of the Bombay Government relating to the Choute of Surat and transfer of some Purganahs in that neighbourhood belonging to this state, answered generally that he believed these claims might be compromised by some cessions on the part of the Peshwa to the Company. Gopal Rao said this object would be difficult to adjust and intimated that the compensation to which he alluded was some remission in the amount stated against the Rajah.

Gopal Rao at the above mentioned interview, represented that the Peshwa on recurring to the stipulation adjusted with me last year for reciprocal aid in the circumstance of the invasion of the territories of either ally by the French, had recollected that the troops of this state when engaged on foreign operations received but little pay and depended chiefly on booty for remuneration; and as this resource would be cut off when serving within the Company's dominions, he should be exposed to an expense which he could not support. He therefore wished to change the terms of the engagement stipulating that each power shall assist its ally when required at its own expense, to an agreement that such assistance shall be furnished at the charge of the state requiring it.

Although I perceive nothing unreasonable in this proposition, I consider it as an effect of the Peshwa's fluctuating and undecided character worked upon by interested persons, as it appears to me that he would be exposed to much heavier and more certain expense by paying the British troops serving in his territories than by supporting his own within those of the Company.

In my answer to Gopal Rao I have expressed my opinion that this proposal of the Peshwa is not for his own advantage, and have stated that the introduction of it, or any other deviation from the overture which

His Highness has so lately made, can only tend to impress your Lordship with such apprehensions of his inconstancy as may discourage all negotiation with him

I understand that the Peshwa's desire to treat with the Company is opposed by a faction, jealous of the rising confidence of Gopal Rao and inimical to British connection, at the head of which is Shedasheo Munkaiser. This man has the principal management of the concerns of this Court with that of Hyderabad and possesses considerable influence with the Peshwa in which he is supported by Sindia, who narrowly watches the proceedings of Gopal Rao This Moonshy, finding himself obnoxious to such formidable opposition and enmity, has no prospect of averting the ruin which threatens him but in promoting an alliance between the Company and the Peshwa, and thus to merit your Lordship's protection.

Serjajee Ghautky is occupied in seizing such inhabitants of the city as are objects of his rapine, without even the pretext of justice, and not only without remonstrance from the Peshwa, but seemingly with his concurrence and approbation Whether he participates with Sindia in the pillage of those whom he ought to protect or only submits to the insults and encroachments of that prince from a dread of his power, his conduct affords but little encouragement to expect that the establishment of his authority can be effected by any measures in which his own spirited exertions may be required

No. 365—Palmer writes to Col Wellesley of Sindia's sincere desire to expel Dhondia Wagh from the southern frontier of the Maratha Dominions. He also communicates the serious complaints that had reached the Peshwa, against British soldiers having committed violence towards Maratha and particularly Brahman women

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—COLONEL WELLESLEY.

Poona, 1st September 1800

The two battalions of Sindia's troops lately detached to Kolapore are, I understood, not intended as a reinforcement, but to relieve two of the battalions already in that station He has given me formal notice of his having, in consequence of your application to the commanding officer of those corps, given positive instructions to Captain Brownrigg to act as you shall require You will have observed in my last letter to you of the 24th past, a reason for believing that Sindia sincerely desires

the expulsion of Dhoondia from the southern frontier of the Mahratta dominions. The presence of your army is the only obstacle to his views in that quarter.

I have the honour to concur with you entirely in your opinion of the justice and policy of restoring Pursaram Bow's sons to the possession of their jagir. My letter of the 16th ultimo apprized you of the Peshwa's secret inclinations to this object, but this can operate no further than you may think it justifiable and expedient to support it by putting Appa Saheb in possession of such places in the Jagir as you may retake from Dhoondiajee, and even these will be claimed by Sindia on the authority of the Peshwa's grant.

Mr. Uthoff informs me that Sindia entertains at his Durbar an agent from Dhoondiajee. I had intimation to this effect some time ago and made a formal representation of it to the minister who solemnly denied the fact. I have now directed secret enquiry to be made into the truth of the report, but the circumstance can produce no obstacles to your progress.

I am concerned to acquaint you (at the Peshwa's earnest request) that great complaints have been made to him of violence committed by your soldiers on numbers of Mahratta women, the wives of Brahmins in particular, who had been released from the power of Dhoondia. I expressed to the Peshwa my entire disbelief of such enormities and assured him that if some slight excesses had been practised and which the utmost vigilance cannot restrain in an army, that even these were without your knowledge, and would be severely punished, if detected; but that I would, as he desired, state the complaints to you and was certain that you would prove them to be calumnious.

No. 366—Palmer graphically describes the situation and designs of Bajirao and Sindia, and explains why they were averse to trusting themselves to the British protection by means of a formal alliance. Bajirao, he writes, relies on his own wisdom and dexterity in intrigue for extricating himself from any eventuality. On this reliance he will probably trifle with his situation until he is ruined.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 6th September 1800.

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's commands of the 15th ultimo, from the Political Department. I lost no time in sending

Meer Fukiruddin to Moonshy Gopal Rao for the purposes of stating to the Peshwa, in the most impressive terms, the danger to which he would expose himself by delaying his assent to the conditions proposed by your Lordship for an immediate alliance, from the possibility of a change in the political situation of the British Government in Hindoostan, and to recommend to His Highness, as of great eventual importance to his security, to furnish your Lordship without delay with an application in writing and authenticated under his seal, to the effect of his wishes for obtaining the protection of the Company.

To these communications Gopal Rao could only answer that he would report them at his first attendance on the Peshwa

I instructed Fukiruddin to take this opportunity of suggesting the necessity which the Peshwa would feel, of acceding to your Lordship's offer of permanent subsidiary force in its full extent, if he should reflect that when he had effected the removal of Sindia by force, he must regard that chieftain as an implacable enemy, who would not fail to attempt the recovery of his ascendancy and to take vengeance for his disgrace whenever the British force should be withdrawn

Gopal Rao replied to this suggestion that the Peshwa was firmly persuaded that as soon as he shall have formed new engagements with the Company, the removal of Sindia will take effect without the least necessity of employing force. Fukiruddin observed that this might prove to be a fatal mistake.

His Highness has no reason to suspect Gopal Rao of indifference to his interests in negotiating with me, on the contrary, I have found him remarkably tenacious in supporting them and very difficult to be either persuaded or convinced. His fears from Sindia have perhaps urged him to advise the Peshwa to conclude an alliance from which he hopes to derive his own safety.

Baajy Rao himself has at this moment, if I am rightly informed, strong motives for following such advice. A force of Sindia's troops consisting of 2,000 Cavalry, 4 battalions of Infantry, with 12 pieces of cannon, has been for some days past stationed in the city, although I fear, by the invitation or at least with the concurrence of the Peshwa, for purposes of rapine and oppression. It seems now to be directed to measures of precaution against his leaving the city or receiving any aid from without, as the bridge and all the avenues are guarded by Sindia's troops and all ingress and egress denied without permission from Serjajee Ghautky. Sindia's suspicions of the Peshwa's intention to retire is excited by His Highness having secretly and very unadvisedly conveyed away the wife of Chimnajee Appa with the family of Emrut Rao, to whose departure Sindia had consented, and by information given to Sindia that Baajy

Rao has, with all possible privacy, stored many of his hill forts with provisions.

The facts are undoubted, and it is not likely that they should be concealed from the knowledge of Sindia. This chief, however, may judge it prudent in the present embarrassments of his government and the reduced state of his force at Poona, to restrain his operations against the Peshwa to preventing his retreat, but will certainly give full scope to his resentment whenever his circumstances will admit of it.

Baajy Rao has, I am told, to this moment, great reliance on his own wisdom and dexterity in intrigue for extricating himself from his subjection to Sindia and even for totally suppressing the power of that chieftain. And on this reliance he will probably trifle with his situation until he is ruined.

Sindia is, I believe, apprehensive of views hostile to his power or interests in the negotiations of the British Government at Hyderabad and Poona, as Serjajee Ghautky has desired Gunput Roy to inform me that Sindia is absolutely determined to proceed to Hindoostan, provided he can be assured that no measures to his prejudice will be adopted by the Company, the Nizam or the Peshwa. I directed Gunput Roy to observe to Serjajee that Sindia had received frequent proofs of your Lordship's friendly disposition towards him, that I knew of no designs injurious to him entertained by either the Nizam or the Peshwa, but those princes would answer for themselves.

No. 367—Palmer informs Col. Wellesley that Bajirao agrees to restore to Appa Saheb Patwardhan his father's possessions, but that he was a virtual prisoner in the hands of Sindia.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—COLONEL WELLESLEY.

Poona, 7th September 1800.

The Peshwa wishes to restore Appa Saheb to the possessions of his father, but he has neither authority nor force to effect it and if he had, he has precluded himself from the attempt by a formal transfer of the Jagir to Sindia. This indeed would not be much regarded if he had the power to revoke the grant, but that is so far from being the case at present, that he is in a manner a prisoner in the hands of Sindia, who has posted a large

body of troops in the city on pretence of compelling a chief called Pehrtyneeddy to dismiss a party of Arabs from his service, but in reality to watch and control the motions of the Peshwa whom he suspects of an intention to withdraw.

No. 368—Palmer reports to Col. Wellesley that he has strongly remonstrated with Sindia against affording indirect support to Dhondia Wagh and that Bajirao desired to reinstate Appasaheb Patwardhan in his father's Jagheer

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—COLONEL WELLESLEY.

Poona, 15th September 1800.

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 28th ultimo, with the enclosures accompanying it

I am concerned to observe that the proceedings of Doulut Rao Sindia are so much at variance with his professions made to me, that I have directed the agent of the Resident at his Durbar to remonstrate strongly on the seizure of Raibaug by his troops, and to require that he will desist from affording Dhoondahjee indirect support by reducing the possessions of those chieftains who are engaged with you in suppressing the power and outrages of that insurgent

I learn from the Peshwa's confidential Moonshy that His Highness has given all possible secret encouragement to the Vakeel of Appa Saheb at his court, and has instructed him to advise the officer-in-charge of Minowly to resist the order which Sindia has obtained from His Highness for restoring that fort to the Rajah of Koulapore, by asserting your intention to maintain possession in consequence of Dhoondahjee's having recovered it by the neglect of the Peshwa's people to occupy it, after you had recovered it

This circumstance corroborated the information which I have already given you, of the Peshwa's real desire to reinstate the family of Pursaram Bhow in the Jagheer, and I now learn from the Moonshy abovementioned that the sunnud for transferring the Jagheer to Sindia has not been issued as I was informed by the Minister of that chieftain, a circumstance which

gives additional sanction to your re-establishing the family in such of their possessions as you may recover from Dhoondia.

The Peshwa is not at present under that degree of restraint in which he was when I had the honour to write to you last, Sindia having withdrawn all his troops except one battalion from the city. He is however still narrowly watched and attended by the spies of that chief to prevent his flight, which he certainly meditates, though I doubt his resolution to attempt it.

No. 369—Palmer congratulates the G. G. on the defeat and death of Dhondia Wagh and reports that Bajirao and Sindia have become apparently very cordial, so that there is no near prospect of Bajirao asking for British protection against violence from Sindia.

FROM—WILLIAM PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 23rd September 1800.

Within these few days, reciprocal visits and much apparent cordiality have taken place between Baajy Rao and Sindia, but the frequent enquiries which His Highness has made to learn your Lordship's answer to his overtures, rather indicates that these appearances are fallacious. I am, however, apprehensive that in the distractions of Sindia's family and government in Hindoostan he feels such present security and entertains such hopes of extricating himself from the power of that chief, as will indispose him to an immediate acquiescence in any conditions of alliance which are repugnant to his prejudices. I shall therefore be particularly solicitous to impress him with a conviction of the fatal consequences of such ill founded security.

Moonshy Gopal Rao yesterday informed Meer Fukiruddin at a casual meeting that Sindia's troops had taken possession of another fort in the jagheer of Pursaram Bhow, and would proceed to reduce the whole district, and that the Peshwa would be obliged to comply with Sindia's application for an order to the Aumils requiring them to surrender the places which they hold under the authority of Appa Saheb, to Sindia's Officers. Gopal Rao asked if any means could be devised to avert the effect of such order without its appearing to Sindia that the Peshwa had countenanced it.

Fukiruddin answered that he understood this communication to imply a wish in the Peshwa that the sons of Pursaram Bhow might be supported in their possession by the British force, with which they were now acting

against Dhoondia Waugh. In this case His Highness's sanction should be authenticated by a letter either to Colonel Wellesley or to me, at least that no authority in favour of Sindia's proceedings should appear and His Highness must contrive to satisfy Sindia in the best manner he could. But the safest expedient which could be adopted would be to dissuade Sindia from attempting to take possession of the Jagheer, while it might be possible that the sons of Pursaram Bhow would be protected by the British Government in return for their services. Gopal Rao said he would report these opinions to the Peshwa and acquaint me with the result.

I believe that Baajy Rao is little more desirous of reinstating the sons of Pursaram Bhow in their possessions than that he is of conveying them to Sindia; and that his real object in secretly exciting resistance to his own public acts is to involve Sindia in a quarrel with the Company, and at the same time to avoid the consequences of that chief's suspecting his duplicity.

I have received private advice from Captain Kirkpatrick of the total defeat and death of Dhoondia Waug and the dispersion of his adherents, on which I beg leave to offer to your Lordship my sincere congratulations. This event makes it necessary that I should apprize the Peshwa without delay, of the probability of Colonel Wellesley's army remaining some time longer within the limits of His Highness's territories. And I hope to satisfy him that this measure will not in the smallest degree injure his interests or disturb the tranquillity of his country, but, on the contrary, will be conducive to the object which he professes to have in view, of preventing the augmentation of Sindia's power on the southern frontier.

No. 370—Palmer communicates his conversation with Munshy Gopal Row, who urged that it was by no means proper for the Company's troops to remain within the Peshwa's Dominions now that the rebel Dhondia Wagh had been put down.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 26th September 1800

Gopal Rao waited upon me yesterday as he promised. He introduced his discourse with observing that the earnest desire which the Peshwa entertained to improve his alliance and connection with the Company, had induced him to make concessions incompatible with the system and

practice of this state, which had never admitted a permanent auxiliary force within its dominions, nor ever submitted the arbitration of its differences to a foreign power. He felt the greatest concern at learning that these concessions did not appear to your Lordship's judgment adequate to the benefits which he was to derive from the proposed defensive alliance by the aid of his allies, nor effectually to provide for the great objects which your Lordship has in view for the interests and security of the contracting parties and the general tranquillity of India. But that considerations of the greatest importance to the existing and future situation of this empire forbid his assent to the admission of a perpetual subsidiary force to the extent proposed, to submit his claim on the Nizam for Chout or the stipulations of the treaty of Mahr (already adjusted) to be brought under arbitration, or to the accession of the Rajah of Berar as a principal in a treaty of alliance with this state. But notwithstanding the necessity which he was under of declining those propositions, he had no object more at heart than to maintain the harmony and friendship subsisting between his Government and that of the Company, and he earnestly entreated that your Lordship would continue to entertain sentiments of amity towards him and to believe that he is sincerely disposed to improve those relations into a solid and intimate alliance, on such conditions as appear to him not less to embrace your Lordship's objects, than his own as included in his past overture.

Although I had little hope that the Peshwa would at this time accede to your Lordship's ultimate proposals, I did not expect that he would finally reject them, but that he would temporize until he could clearly ascertain his danger or security from Sindia. That he cannot be reasonably assured of the latter so long as that chieftain retains his present position, is certain. But I am informed that Sindia has lately sought to establish the Peshwa's confidence in his good intentions with the utmost assiduity and had at least convinced him that he is in no immediate danger from his designs. Moonshy Gopal Rao in fact spoke with perfect assurance of Sindia's inability, in the present state of his affairs, to hold the Peshwa in subjection, and attributed this inability to His Highness's management and address in secretly fomenting dissensions in every branch of Sindia's government. It is also the belief of many well informed persons that Sindia seriously desires to proceed to Hindoostan.

At this interview with Gopal Rao I desired him to acquaint the Peshwa with your Lordship's instructions to the Honourable Colonel Wellesley to continue some time longer in the Mahratta territories after Dhoondia Waug should have evacuated them, lest that rebel should, from the divisions of the Chiefs on the southern frontier, be enabled to regain the asylum from which the British forces had driven him.

Gopal Rao observed on this intimation that it was by no means proper the Company's troops should maintain any position within the Peshwa's

dominions after Dhoondia had retreated from them, and now that this insurgent was slain and the insurrection was entirely suppressed, there could be no pretence for this measure; and he reminded me of my promise, in your Lordship's name, that the British army should retire whenever Dhoondia should be expelled. But no doubt your Lordship would recall it as soon as you should be advised of the complete termination of the rebellion. This expectation I encouraged, by observing that your Lordship's orders for its continuing to occupy a position within the frontier of this State were given on the supposition of the contest being protracted.

Having stated to Moonshy Gopal Rao the security which might be obtained to the southern frontier by reinstating the sons of Pursaram Bhow in their possessions under the Peshwa's authority rather than suffer them to pass into the hands of Sindia, he replied that the family of the Bhow had no claims to His Highness's favour, yet he intended to make a suitable provision for them, of which they were apprized, and ought not to apply for my interposition. I understand that the Peshwa has assured Appa Saheb that he will restore to him the original Jagheer of his father, but will resume Darwar and Shanoor which were bestowed on the Bhow on condition of his raising a force to act against Tippoo Sultan in the late war. No arguments will ever prevail on Baajy Rao to trust this family with any considerable degree of power.

Both the Peshwa and Sindia certainly desire to maintain a good understanding with the British Government in its present high state of respectability and power. But neither have a sincere attachment to it, nor is even their neutrality to be depended upon if circumstances should encourage a deviation from their professions.

No. 371—Palmer in explaining the situation at Poona accounts for the cordial friendship existing between Bajirao and Sindia. The latter is reported to be contemplating to interfere in the affairs of Baroda whose ruler Govindrao was on his death-bed.

FROM—WM PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 3rd October 1800

I was invited by the Peshwa to an entertainment at one of his gardens on the day following the celebration of the Dussarah, but the weather proved so bad that I could not wait upon him. On this occasion Gopal

Rao again cautioned me to avoid any notice of the Peshwa's last determination on the proposed treaty. I am rather inclined to infer from this anxiety of Gopal Rao to warn me against any renewal of discussion, that he is apprehensive of its being conducted through Shedasheo Munkaiser, than that Baajy Rao has authorized him to discourage it. This, however, is a doubt which will probably be cleared up at my first visit to His Highness.

Sindia still affects to require the Peshwa's permission for repairing to Hindoostan, and Baajy Rao with equal dissimulation to declare that he will on no consideration part with him. If Sindia was seriously disposed to retire, the want of the Peshwa's permission would be no obstacle and the latter, while he pretends to desire Sindia's continuance, is exulting in the persuasion of that chieftain's being compelled by the necessity of his affairs to retreat. That each knows the other's endeavours to deceive him, is hardly to be doubted. But they find it convenient at present to concur in pillaging and disgracing some of the most respectable vassals of the empire.

I am very doubtful whether Sindia could be induced to remove from the Deccan, even for the preservation of his possessions in Hindoostan, which he seems to place in no competition with his situation and prospects here.

The Peshwa has hitherto made no objection to the continuance of the British troops under command of the Hon'ble Colonel Wellesley, in his dominions, and having desired me to solicit the Colonel's protection of a talook in the family of Hurry Punt Furkia from the ravages of Appa Saheb's followers, I conclude that he silently acquiesces in the measure. I am indeed apprehensive that he is so sensible of the favourable effects which the presence of the British force has, or may have, on the conduct of Sindia towards him, that it has in some measure influenced his rejection of the ultimate conditions proposed to him by your Lordship.

Intelligence is just now given me from Brodera of Rajah Gobind Rao Gaikwar being at the point of death. It seems however to be premature, as fourteen days have elapsed since the dispatch of the Cossids who brought it and the Peshwa's Dauks usually arrive in the course of seven or eight days. But the event cannot be remote and whenever it takes place, the Soubadary will fall under the power of Sindia, who has determined to assume the management of it in the name of Gobind Rao's youngest son, a child of eleven years of age, who resides with his mother at a place called Daury within 20 miles of Poona. Sindia to secure his object, purposes to send a strong detachment of troops to Brodera under the orders of a brother of Serjajee Ghautky, who is to administer the authority of the young Rajah.

Little exception can be taken to this choice of a successor, as the Rajah's eldest legitimate son is insane, the two next in priority are ineligible to the Raaje by the inferiority of their mothers' caste, besides being illegitimate. It is however expected that Sindia's interference will be opposed by the ministers of the present Rajah in support of the elder son.

No. 372—The death of Govindrao Gaikwad is reported It took place at Baroda on 19th September 1800.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 4th October 1800.

I have this morning received certain intelligence by various channels of the death of Rajah Gobind Rao Gaikwar and of the succession to the soubahdary of Guzerat having been proclaimed at Brodera in the name of his eldest son

No. 373—Palmer reports the vacillation of Bajirao in the matter of effecting an alliance with the British power for his protection, and attributes it to the influence of Sindia, who did not seem inclined to proceed to the North.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 6th October 1800.

I learn from a conversation which Meer Fikiruddin has had with Moonshy Shunker Rao, the brother of Gopal Rao, that the Peshwa is exceedingly averse to the introduction of Sindia's power or influence in the Gaikwar Government, and has with a view to defeat it secretly given permission for the youngest son of Rajah Gobind Rao to repair to Brodera.

It appears that opposite parties have concurred in the elevation of Govind Rao's eldest son to the Raaje, though with different views, one desiring to prevent and the other to establish an administration dependent on Sindia. The first is composed of the widow of the late Rajah, his second son and Rowbah the Dewan. At the head of the other is Mungal Parik; but I do not know whether he has any confederates of note. His principal reliance seems to be on the support of Sindia, with whom however the vigilance or power of his opponents has hitherto prevented his having any communication.

Fukiruddin took the occasion of meeting Shunker Rao to enquire whether the Peshwa had expressed his sentiments or made any observations on Gopal Rao's report of his last interview with me. Shunker Rao said that the Peshwa had declared he was very anxious to engage in a defensive alliance with the Company; and the Nizam had proved his sincerity by acceding to such conditions as appeared to him fully equivalent to the benefits which he could derive from the support of the allies. But additional concessions now required of him for such support he should not be justified in making, either by the actual necessity of his affairs, or the general interests of the Mahratta empire.

It does not appear to me that your Lordship's sentiments, on a former occasion, of the inexpediency of weakening the means of the Rajah of Koulapore's resistance to the Peshwa by enforcing the claims of the Company, apply to existing circumstances, since Sindia has now taken that Rajah under his protection; and whether reparation is exacted from him or not, the Peshwa's wish to reduce him is now become impracticable.

I have no faith in Serjajee Ghautky's declaration of Sindia's determination to proceed to Hindoostan. It seems to be inconsistent with the orders and preparations for a strong detachment under the command of Gopal Rao to march in the course of a few days to that quarter; and is still more so with the information which I have received of the Peshwa's having given orders for levying a force to be assembled at Poona, where, forming a junction with that of Sindia, the whole is to take a position near Poorunder with a view to either defence or invasion, as circumstances may require. I do not, however, consider this information as authentic, and I am persuaded that this Government will carefully avoid all acts of open aggression and that any hostile preparation which it may make in the present state of affairs, will be merely precautionary and defensive.

No. 374—The Resident describes Bajirao as being more intent on seizing the persons and property of his subjects than on providing for his own safety. Bajirao's overtures to Ragujī Bhosle of Nagpur are also mentioned.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 10th October 1800

This Court has not yet adopted any measure for the arrangement of the Guikwar Government, and it is likely to be embarrassed in its determination by an event which, I just now learn, has taken place at Brodera. The second illegitimate son of Rajah Gobind Rao, who was kept in confinement by his father, has obtained his liberation by the assistance of the Arab troops in that city, and it appears that this support gives him an ascendancy in the disposal of the government. His real views cannot yet be ascertained, but he professes to assert the right of his eldest brother whose succession was proclaimed on the death of the late Rajah. This unexpected event has suspended the departure of the youngest son from Daury.

The Peshwa has erected his standard and formed a small encampment near Poona, but there is no appearance of any troops repairing to it, nor probably any serious intention of assembling the forces of the empire. His Highness seems to be more intent on seizing the persons and property of his subjects than on plans of hostility or even of providing for his own safety by military preparation, relying for the latter on the distractions in Sindia's Government and his own address in fomenting and increasing them.

If the Peshwa really intends to guard against the consequences which he may apprehend from the new treaty of Hyderabad, his dependence for resisting them will be on Sindia and the Rajah of Nagpore, as neither his authority nor his revenue are adequate to the assembling and subsisting the feudatory force of the state. The principal object of his requisition to Ragojee Bhonsla, as stated to your Lordship in the Resident at Hyderabad's dispatch of the 1st instant, to depute a confidential agent to that Court, is no doubt to dissuade that chieftain from engaging in the general defensive alliance between the Company and the Nizam. And the Raja's dread of Sindia's Power will, I apprehend, induce him to comply with the requisition.

No. 375—Palmer summarises the position of the Peshwa and Sindia at Poona with reference to the various extraneous circumstances, such as the Baroda succession dispute, the descent of the French armament on Indian coasts and the aims of the Raja of Savantwadi.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 13th October 1800.

By the latest intelligence from Brodera it appears that Kannojee, the late Raja's eldest illegitimate son, has obtained a complete ascendancy in the affairs of the Raaje. His ultimate views are not known, but it is supposed that his purpose is to avail himself of the incapacity of the heir by birth and his name to exercise an unparticipated authority in the government.

Kannojee seems not to rely on either of the parties which subsisted in the late administration, for the attainment of power, but to proceed entirely on the support of the military force which liberated him from confinement. He has hitherto had no intercourse with Rowbah, the late Dewan, and his intentions towards that minister and towards Mungul Parrick, his rival, are yet unknown.

These circumstances have, I understand, determined the Peshwa (or rather Sindia) to bring Rajah Gobind Rao's youngest son to Poona, and probably to invest him with the Raaje, on the ground of his eldest brother's insanity.

Such a disposition of the Guikwar Government does not infringe the stipulation in the treaty of Salbye made in favour of the late Futteh Singh Guikwar, which provides for no more than the integrity of his Jagire and that (strictly taken) limited to his life, though Nana Furnaveese admitted its operation in favour of Rajah Gobind Rao, having on the remonstrance of Sir Charles Warre Malet desisted from his intentions to dismember the Jagire at that Rajah's accession. But the family will sustain greater injury from the assumption of Sindia to manage its rights and interests than it would have suffered by the sequestration of two or three Purgunnahs.

The most apparent cordiality and confidence subsists at present between the Peshwa and Sindia. I cannot learn that this harmony is founded on any precise mutual assurances, objects or engagements; and it is perhaps induced only by the general state of their respective affairs and with views of ultimately deceiving each other here. But admitting them to be for the

present sincerely united, I do not think that the force of the Mahratta empire is likely to become formidable under the conduct of such weak, inexperienced leaders as Baajy Rao and Doulut Rao Sindia, unless supported by the junction of a very considerable body of European troops

The indisposition manifested by both Peshwa and Sindia to an alliance for the mutual advantage and security of Mahratta empire, with the Company and its allies, affords a strong presumption of their inclination to favour the attempts of any rival to the British power in India. And it is not very improbable that they may look to the descent of French armament on their coasts, as the period at which they may expect to recover their ascendancy over those states which have been freed from their impositions.

I have no knowledge of this Court maintaining any direct intercourse or correspondence with the French, but it is (by whatever means) well and recently informed of the situation of that nation in Egypt and in Europe

Sindia is interested by consanguinity and political connection in the welfare of the Rajah of Saawunt Warree, and is also engaged to procure satisfaction for the Company's demands on him. I know not of any circumstance which can operate in favour of any remission or indulgence towards this Rajah.

No. 376—Palmer informs the G C of Bajirao having assembled his household troops in the vicinity of Parindah on the Nizam's frontier and of the death of Bapuji Malhar, alias Bhau Baxi

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 20th October 1800

The Peshwa's standard is not hitherto attended by a single chieftain or Sirdar of note. But I learn that His Highness has ordered some corps of his household cavalry, stationed in the districts contiguous to Poona, to repair to the vicinity of Purindah on the Nizam's frontier.

I have not lately received any particular advices from Brodera. Kannojee appears to maintain ascendancy in the Guikwar administration and to have associated Rowbah, the Dewan, and other ministers of the late Rajah in his councils. This disposition is likely to exclude Sindia's interference in that government as he cannot spare troops to effect his views by force. Neither he nor the Peshwa have yet taken any avowed part in the succession to the Rajah Gobind Rao. The Peshwa has sent people to secure the person of the late Rajah's youngest son; but has not yet brought him to Poona, nor made any declaration in his favour.

Bhow Bukshy died a few days ago after being liberated from confinement in Ahmednagar, on his way to cantonments.

No. 376A—Palmer congratulates the G. G. on the treaty of alliance concluded between the Company and the Nizam and expresses his mortification at the failure of his negotiations with the Peshwa.

FROM—COLONEL PALMER,

TO—THE MARQUESS WELLESLEY.

Poonah, 21st October 1800.

My Lord,

Feeling an interest in the happy termination of the negotiations at Hyderabad, which the forms of official business do not permit me fully to express, I hope for your Lordship's pardon in offering under a private address, my sincere and cordial congratulations on the conclusion of the treaty of general defensive alliance between the Company and the Nizam—an alliance which places the security of the British Government in India on a solid and durable basis, and which affords the fairest prospect of permanent tranquillity throughout the Peninsula. I ardently wish that all your Lordship's plans for promoting the honour and prosperity of your government in its external and internal relations may prove equally successful.

While congratulating your Lordship on the success of these negotiations, I cannot but be impressed with a sense of severe mortification at the failure of those which you have committed to my charge; though I have reason to believe from the peculiar character and dependent situation of the Peishwa, that those negotiations would have failed in much abler hands than mine.

SECTION 6

*Troubles all round—Plots to depose Bajirao
(Nov. 1800—Dec. 1801)*

No. 377—Palmer was asked by Bajirao to accompany him on his pilgrimage. He agreed and requests permission for it from the Governor General.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY

Poona, 7th November 1800.

Since I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 3rd instant, Moonshy Gopal Rao sent for Meer Fakiruddin and desired him to communicate to me the Peshwa's wish that I should accompany him on his intended pilgrimage. As the advantages of my being always near the person of the Peshwa must be obvious to your Lordship, and the professed nature of the excursion is unobjectionable, I have signified to His Highness that I shall be happy to attend him, which I hope your Lordship will approve.

The Peshwa has sent his tents to the distance of ten coss from Poona, and purposes to proceed to them either tomorrow or the following day. But notwithstanding this advanced state of his preparation for the journey I shall be mistaken if Sindia consents to his departure or agrees to a separation which will place Baajy Rao beyond the reach of his power or influence,

unless he has absolutely determined to repair to Hindoostan, in which case the Peshwa's expedition might be a matter of indifference.

Although Sindia may have formed this resolution he is not in a condition to carry it into early execution, being in want of money to discharge the arrears due to his troops, and of draft and carriage cattle for his artillery and stores. It does not appear that he can move to any considerable distance in a shorter period than one month. But he will probably advance a few coss and clear his cantonments by degrees.

Gopal Rao expressed the Peshwa's satisfaction at the assurances which I had given him, of my ignorance and disbelief of any inimical design of the Nizam towards this State.

It is the general opinion of Sindia's people that he will certainly proceed to Hindoostan. But on this point I am still incredulous, although the state of the commotion in his government there seems to require that he should be prepared for the expedition.

I am just now informed that the Peshwa has moved from his own house into that of Babba Furkia, whence he purposes to take his departure at the expiration of four days. Chimna Appa is still at the palace, in which he is to remain until Baajy Rao proceeds to his tents. This delay is on pretext of waiting an auspicious day, but I suspect that it is in reality at the instance of Sindia.

No. 378—The Resident reports the relief which the Peshwa felt at being informed that Col. Wellesley had retired from the Maratha territory. He also reports Yashwantrao Holkar having defeated the Sindia ladies and besieged them at Ujjain.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 10th November 1800.

Having received advice from Lieutenant Colonel Kirkpatrick having remanded the army under the Command of the Hon'ble Colonel Wellesley into the Company's territories, I yesterday sent Meer Fakiruddin to Moonshy Gopal Rao to notify the event for the Peshwa's information, and to learn, if practicable, whether His Highness would actually proceed on his intended tour.

Gopal Rao expressed much satisfaction at the recall of the British forces from the Mahratta dominions. To Fukiruddin's enquiry respecting the Peshwa's journey, he answered, that His Highness was exceedingly anxious to prosecute it, and to set out without delay; that Sindia, however, was very averse to a separation at this time, which would probably protract

the Peshwa's departure for some days ; but that, in the doubtful state of Sindia's authority in Hindoostan he would not deem it prudent to use any other means than persuasion to divert the Peshwa from his purpose.

This motive of forbearance on the part of Sindia seems to be removed by advices from Ogeine, of Esswunt Rao Holkar having abruptly attacked the camp of the Bhyes, defeated their troops and pursued those ladies into that city, where he was preparing to renew his attack and would probably secure their persons in order to deliver them up to Sindia

There can be little doubt of Esswunt Rao having been seduced to this act of treachery by the promise of Sindia to support his usurpation of the Raaje of his elder brother Kashi Rao Holkar ; and as Sindia's greatest apprehensions will have subsided in consequence of this event and of the return of Colonel Wellesley to Mysore, he will resume his encroachments on the rights of the Peshwa, and renew those schemes of violence and rapine from which the distractions in his government have lately compelled him to desist.

No. 379—The Resident informs the Governor General of an entertainment given to him by Bajirao, when he presented him a ring worth about Rs 1,000. He proposed to credit the sum into the public accounts

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 14th November 1800

No material transaction has occurred at either the Peshwa's or Sindia's Durbar, since I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 10th instant. In the evening of that day the Peshwa gave me an entertainment at one of his gardens. He informed me that he should proceed on his intended religious tour on the 29th of this moon, and expressed in a very obliging manner his wish that I should accompany him, in which I readily acquiesced

Towards the close of my visit Moonshy Gopal Rao suddenly placed a diamond ring on my finger, saying, that the Peshwa requested I would wear it in remembrance of his friendship and esteem. As I judged that this mode of making the present was intended to preclude any objection on my part to accept it and that no refusal would be taken, I did not attempt to return the ring. It appears to be of the value of 1000 or 1200 rupees. This I will ascertain and with your Lordship's permission give credit for the sum in my public accounts

Doulut Rao Sindia has made little or no progress in his preparations for marching to Hindustan. Nor has he yet been able to raise money sufficient

to put Gopal Rao's detachment in motion. His own resources seem to be nearly exhausted, and he is not yet confident enough in the stability of his power to renew his exaction on the Peshwa. He derives little advantage from the treacherous attack of Jesswunt Rao Holkar on the Bhyes, as those ladies have been so fortunate as to escape and to find refuge with Juggoo Bapoo, the colleague of Lacawa Dada.

I have not been able for several days past to obtain any information of the state of affairs at Brodera. Nor can I learn that any application has been made by Kannojee in the name of Anund Rao to the Peshwa for the sunnud and khelaat of investiture, customary on the succession to the Subadary of Guzerat. Neither Baajy Rao nor Doulut Rao Sindia have taken any measures to secure an influence in the administration of the Guikwar Government. They are probably restrained from such an attempt by the difficulties of their own situations and by mutual jealousy. But I do not apprehend that in any circumstances they would exercise such an influence as would give the Company's Government a right to assist and maintain the provisions of the eighth article of the treaty of Salbye, in favour of the Guickwar family.

I just now learn from the confidential agent of Serjajee Ghautky, that Sindia unable to divert the Peshwa from his journey by argument or persuasion and unwilling to use compulsion, has proposed to accompany him.

No. 380—The Resident reports his visit to Bajirao at which the former announced the ratification of a defensive alliance between the Company and the Nizam.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 24th October 1800.

I attended the Peshwa by his appointment at an early hour in the afternoon of the 21st. I was conducted by Moonshy Gopal Rao to a private apartment and the Peshwa entered a few minutes after entirely unaccompanied.

His Highness having enquired if your Lordship was in good health, I proceeded to inform him that I had received your Lordship's commands to notify to him, that a treaty of general defensive alliance had been concluded between the Company and the Nizam, by which those states were reciprocally bound to protect the territories of each other and their allies with their whole force, against all unprovoked aggression by any

power whatever. I added that this engagement was purely precautionary and without any view or tendency to the aggrandizement of the contracting parties, or to infringe the rights or endanger the possessions of any other State. I assured His Highness that your Lordship was constantly mindful of the friendly relations subsisting between him and the British Government in India, of which the prompt and candid notification I had just given him was an additional proof

The Peshwa behaved towards me at this audience with much personal kindness and affability, expressed his disappointment at being deprived of my company by bad weather at the last entertainment which he made for me, and hoped to see me at another which he wished to provide in the course of a few days.

I will not pretend to judge of the light in which the Peshwa actually views the improved alliance from any of the circumstances which passed on my communicating it. He very rarely speaks his real sentiments and his countenance is admirably formed to conceal what passes in his mind. But adverting to the predatory system of this state and to which the Nizam was the most accessible and beneficial object, it may be presumed that he considers the new treaty as injurious to his interest and will omit no means which he can employ with safety to disturb or counteract its operations

No. 381—Palmer reports his visit to Sindia, and the sullenness with which he received the news of the defensive alliance having been concluded between the Company and the Nizam. He also reports rapid preparations for the movement of Maratha troops.

FROM—WM. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 27th October 1800.

I waited on Sindia yesterday evening by his appointment and notified to him the new treaty of general defensive alliance which has been concluded at Hyderabad between the Hon'ble Company and His Highness the Nawab Nizam Ali Khan.

I am concerned to state that Sindia received this notification with evident marks of dissatisfaction and vexation. He observed that the Company and the Nizam being already firmly united in friendship and alliance, he did not comprehend the necessity of new engagements, and that by the usage established between the British Government and that of the Mahrattah State, he ought to have been previously advised of the measure.

My intimation of the option which your Lordship had reserved to him to become a member of the general alliance, drew no answer or remark from Sindia, and the whole of his demeanour during my visit was sullen and ungracious. That he has no intention to accede to the treaty of Hyderabad, I afterwards learned from Gunput Roy, on the authority of Serjajee Ghautky. It may of course be inferred that he would dissuade or prevent the Peshwa from engaging in the alliance if His Highness was so disposed, which I fear he is not.

Reports are become so confident and universal of a resolution taken by the Peshwa and Sindia to assemble the forces of the empire on the Burmah* and of Sindia repairing with his army in the course of fifteen days, to the place of rendezvous, that I hardly know how to refuse credit to them, although I have no direct information to be relied on and can perceive no preparation indicating early military movements; but should such take place, I conceive it will be chiefly with a view to intimidate the Nizam attempting to take any advantages of this state, to which it may be supposed that he will be encouraged by his improved connection with the Company. Notwithstanding the Peshwa is convinced of such a propensity in the Nizam, he will not resort to the peaceable, just and impartial mode of restraining it by the Company's mediation.

I am just now informed by Gunput Roy, that Sindia has dispatched twenty-five troops and two spare horses to every stage between his cantonments and Ahmednagar. It is conjectured that he is going in person to that fortress for the purpose of conciliating Balloo Tautia, and some countenance is given to this conjecture by the Peshwa having given directions to prepare a dress of leave for Sindia, which, report says, is to take place tomorrow. I have no knowledge of any circumstances which induce this sudden resolution, and still doubt Sindia's departure. I shall give your Lordship the earliest information of the result of these extraordinary appearances.

No. 382—Palmer communicates to the Governor General the uncasiness caused to the Peshwa and Sindia by the continued presence of Col. Wellesley's troops within Maratha territory and by the all round hostile preparations by the British at Madras and Bombay.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 31st October 1800.

The intelligence which I received from Gunput Roy as stated in my last address of Sindia's having placed troopers and relays of horses at the stages between Poona and Ahmednagar, proved to be erroneous..

* The river Bhimra or Bhima.

But on the 20th Serjajee Ghautky sent for Meer Fukiruddin to inform him, that he had it in command from Doulut Rao Sindia to wait upon me and advise me of the fixed resolution of that chief to proceed towards Hindustan in the course of twenty or thirty days, and that he would have an audience of leave of the Peshwa, preparatory to that event, on the following night. Serjajee apologized for not waiting upon me, as he had been diverted by the pressure of important business at the Peshwa's Durbar and accompanied his communications with strong professions, in the name of Sindia, of attachment to the Company's Government.

Meer Fukiruddin reports the whole of Serjajee's discourse to him as of the most conciliatory nature and apparently calculated to efface the impressions which, he might suppose, had been made on my mind by the visible dissatisfaction, with which my notification of the treaty of Hyderabad had been received at the Durbar

My Moonshy enquired of Serjajee why Sindia desired to take leave so long before the period fixed for his departure, who replied that the interval was necessary to some previous arrangements with the Peshwa, and to prepare the troops for the march. He at the same time intimated that Baajy Rao would accompany Sindia a few days on his journey and then separate from him, for the purpose of performing his devotions at a celebrated temple on the Godavery

On the 30th Moonshy Gopal Rao informed me by note that Sindia had the preceding night taken leave of the Peshwa with the forms and ceremonies usual on such occasions, and in about an hour after this information, Gopal Rao requested to see Meer Fukiruddin, who repaired to the city immediately, but Gopal Rao being detained the whole day at the Peshwa's Durbar, my Moonshy attended this morning, when he informed him that complaints were made to the Peshwa, by the Killedar of Dharwar, of the officers and soldiers of the Hon'ble Colonel Wellesley's army frequently approaching that fortress for the purpose of examining its strength and construction. His Highness was therefore apprehensive of disputes and as I had assured him, in your Lordship's name, that the Company's troops would be recalled from his dominions whenever the rebellion of Dhoondia Waug should be suppressed, an event which was so completely accomplished as to remove all apprehension of further insurrection and, of course, to render the continuance of an army in the Mahratta territories wholly unnecessary; on these considerations he requested that I would immediately notify to Colonel Wellesley his wish that the British army should retire within the Company's limits.

It appears to me indispensable that I should so far comp'y with the Peshwa's requisition as to notify it to Colonel Wellesley. But at the same time, I shall inform His Highness that I apprehend the Colonel must attend your Lordship's orders for retiring from the Mahratta

territories and which you will certainly give, on ascertaining that the dangers which required the precautionary measure of his continuing some time longer within them no longer exist; and that, it is not improbable that your Lordship may have already remanded the British troops into Mysore. In the meantime, I am persuaded that the complaint made by the Killedar of Dharwar is groundless, and that Colonel Wellesley neither has, nor will permit any conduct in his officers or soldiers, injurious or offensive to the Peshwa or any of his subjects.

Gopal Rao observed to Fukiruddin, but not for communication to me, that reports prevailed of great hostile preparations at Madras and Bombay, and requested to know what were the objects of them. My Moonshy answered that he believed the reports were without foundation, or at best exaggeration of our ordinary movements for the relief or reinforcement of our military posts.

From these symptoms of distrust in the Peshwa, I judge that Sindia's audience of leave is a feint to intimidate the insurgents in Malwa, while he will march to the Beemra for the purpose of collecting his own force and the contingent of the empire, to watch the motions of the British Government and its allies.

Seshaudry Pundit set out on his return to Hyderabad a few days ago. Since his departure Anund Rao has informed me, that at the last visit of his colleague to the Peshwa His Highness enjoined him to make three requisitions to the Nizam,—first to deliver up some adherents of the late Narain Rao Buckshy, to discharge the sum and to furnish the force stipulated for the release of the Chaut of Bedar. Shesaudry Pundit gave the Peshwa assurances conformable to the Nizam's engagements.

No. 383—The nature of the succession dispute at Baroda, and Bajirao and Sindia's interests in that affair, are described in this letter for the information of the Governor General by the Resident.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 21st November 1800.

By the written report of Meer Fukiruddin of the Peshwa's discourse with him yesterday, which I have transmitted to Mr. Edmonstone, your Lordship will perceive that His Highness's departure on his intended pilgrimage this day, appeared to be as certain as any measure yet in contemplation of this weak and distracted Government could be. I learn, however, that it is postponed, and I am, indeed, unable to reconcile

this journey with the principles, policy or situation of Sindia, unless it may be supposed that he and Baajy Rao have sacrificed their mutual distrusts and separate views to a sense of common danger, and have determined to unite in defence of the empire. Such a supposition, however, is highly improbable from the character of the parties and seems to be overthrown by the Peshwa's allusion to the conduct of the Company's Government when Chitna Appa was placed on the Musnud.

Should the Peshwa actually proceed, I shall conclude that Sindia has either seriously resolved to prosecute his march to Hindustan, or that it is determined to summon the feudatory chieftains of the state with their contingents of troops to repair to the Peshwa's standard on the banks of the Godavery, where Sindia will join them.

From the tenor of the Peshwa's discourse I infer that he is desirous of impressing your Lordship with a belief of his having acted under restraint in all his negotiations with me and of keeping in reserve an option to accede to the treaty of general defensive alliance if his circumstances should compel him to resort to it.

Serjajee Ghautky sent for Meer Fikiruddin on the 19th, to whom he observed, that adverting to the security provided in the treaty of Salbhye for the rights and possessions of the Guickwar family, he wished to apprise me, that Doulut Rao had received from the Peshwa, in the life time of Rajah Gobind Rao, a Tuncaw or assignment on the revenue of Ahmedabad for ten lacs of rupees; that various applications for payment had been made both before and since the death of Gobind Rao, without effect, and that he was apprehensive, coercion would be necessary to obtain it. The sending a few troops for this purpose to Ahmedabad, Ghautky remarked, could not, in any shape, affect the independence or property, guaranteed to the Guickwar family by the Company, as this district is a recent acquisition purchased by Rajah Gobind Rao from the Peshwa, and the tuncaw in question, is in part of the consideration money.

In answer to this communication I have observed to Serjajee, that although such a degree of coercion as may be strictly limited to enforcing payment of the tuncaw, cannot be deemed a violation or infringement of the rights of the Guickwar under the Company's guarantee, it may be advisable to refrain from any application of force while the unsettled state of the succession to the Raaje might render the design of it liable to misconstruction.

I understand that Kannojee maintains his ascendancy at Brodera merely by force, that he holds Anund Rao in close confinement, and debars all access to him except of his own dependants, and uses the utmost vigilance to obstruct foreign intercourse or communication, and particularly with the Government of Bombay.

The Peshwa is wholly averse to the administration of Kannojee and wishes to establish the youngest son of Rajah Gobind Rao in the Raaje,

under the management of Rowbah, the late Dewan. I believe that he has no improper views in desiring this arrangement, looking only to the maintenance of the superiority and rights of the empire, as recognized by the 8th article of the treaty of Salbhye, and to the exclusion of Sindia's interference or connexion with that Soubahdary. If I am right in this opinion, it would probably be acceptable to the Peshwa to receive your Lordship's countenance and support of his object, which, I conceive, may be afforded with the most scrupulous regard to justice, since the insanity of Anund Rao is unquestionable; and for such assistance your Lordship might reasonably claim the cessions promised by Rajah Gobind Rao and the commutation of the Peshwa's Choute on Surat. I will endeavour to discover His Highness's sentiments on this subject for your Lordship's information and decision.

No. 384—The Resident intends to accompany Bajirao to Jejury.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 24th November 1800.

I have at present only to inform your Lordship that the Peshwa is on the point of departure. His baggage of every description has been dispatched this morning and he purposes to proceed to Sassoor at the distance of fourteen or fifteen miles from Poona this evening.

It is generally supposed that the motive which has compelled Sindias' acquiescence in a separation which places the Peshwa's person beyond his control, is the necessity which he conceives, of his presence in Hindoostan for the preservation of his authority and possessions. But I shall probably learn from Moonshy Gopal Rao who is to remain here a day or two longer, what are Sindia's real views and be able to discover what plan of policy the Peshwa is likely to adopt, when he is in a condition to act independently.

I shall follow the Peshwa with all possible expedition, and expect to join him at Jejoory where he intends to halt a few days.

No. 385—Bajirao's departure to Saswad and Sindia's to Jamgaum are intimated to the Governor General in this letter.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 20th November 1800.

On the 26th I received a visit from Moonshy Gopal Rao, who informed me that the Peshwa would remain two or three days longer at Sassoor, whence he should proceed to Jejoory, and make a few days halt at that

place, where he hoped I would join him. I told Gopal Rao that it was my wish to have moved with the Peshwa from Poona, but the difficulty of procuring carriage cattle had prevented it. I should, however, certainly overtake His Highness at Jejoory.

I endeavoured to learn of Gopal Rao the Peshwa's views respecting the settlement of Guzerat, and observed that your Lordship would be ready to assert, if circumstances should require it, the Company's guarantee of the authority and possessions of the Guikwar family, under the reservation of the rights of the Peshwa as provided by the 8th article of the treaty of Salbhye.

Gopal Rao said, that the Peshwa had not come to any determination on this subject; that Kannojee had assumed the administration in the name of Anund Rao without any previous or subsequent communication to the Durbar, but he would inform the Peshwa of my intimation and acquaint me with his sentiments upon it.

Sindia appears to be seriously resolved on marching, having sent his family to Jaumgaon and being earnestly occupied in raising money to discharge the arrears of his army and to provide for the necessities of his journey. He is, as Gopal Rao informs me, to have another interview with Baajy Rao on the banks of the Godavery on his route to Hindoostan.

No. 385—Palmer intimates to Kirkpatrick the departure of the Peshwa and Sindia from Poona.

Poona, 6th December 1800.

My dear Kirkpatrick,

I avail myself of an express passing from Bombay to advise you, for the information of Lord Wellesley, that Sindia moved in the middle of last night to his Peish Kheema,* distant about three coss from his cantonments, on the road to Jaumgauwng. His troops are to follow in the course of two or three days.

The Peshwa is still at Sassore and purposes to make an excursion thence of ten or twelve coss to some place of worship, before he proceeds to Jejoory where he has appointed me to meet him, so that I shall probably remain here a few days longer, though I have no other reason to detain me than that of avoiding an uncertain ramble after His Highness.

I am yet doubtful of Sindia's real destination being Hindustan as he pretends. But this point will probably be ascertained by the dispositions which he may make at his departure, which I think will indicate whether he intends or not finally to pass the Nurbudda.

I am etc.

(Signed) Wm Palmer.

* Advance tent

No. 387—Palmer reports the inability of Sindia to move away from Poona owing to want of funds to defray the arrears of his troops, who refuse to move without receiving full payment.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 18th December 1800.

It appears to me that the Peshwa is already at the end of his peregrination, as he has resolved not to proceed until Sindia shall actually march to Jaumgowng, and the latter seems to be totally unable to effect the movement of his army. He has advanced in person six or seven miles, but is very slenderly attended. His infantry remains in cantonments and cavalry which escorted him to his tents is returned, both corps declaring their determination not to move until their arrears are entirely cleared. He has no means of satisfying them but from rapine and extortion and as the latter is nearly exhausted by the personal security in which the Peshwa and his Sirdars are now placed, he has no resource but in the reduction of the country.

In this situation it is not probable that Sindia will, or indeed that he can, retire from the Deccan, and the obvious consequences of subsisting his army in it are that Baajy Rao will either oppose him with the forces of the empire, take refuge in Poorunder or seek his safety in flight; for it is highly improbable that His Highness will again commit himself to the power of this unprincipled chieftain.

Admitting the real object of the movements of the Peshwa and Sindia to be the assembling the contingents of the empire on the Godavery, I should rather suppose the real view of Baajy Rao in this measure is to compel Sindia to retire than that of forming an opposition to the alliance between the Company and the Nizam, as he seems to be perfectly sensible of the inability of this State to engage in such a contest. I cannot, however, venture to predict with any degree of confidence what will be the future resolves of a mind so weak and capricious as that of Baajy Rao.

His Highness seems desirous that I should not join him until he arrives at Jejoory; his present position is not on the road from Poona to that place, but I apprehend that his reason for wishing me to proceed thither direct, is that I may not have a view of the fortress of Poorunder.

The intercourse of correspondence between Brodera and Poona seems to be entirely interdicted by Kannojee; no advices from the former place have been received at the Durbar, or even by the Guikwar Vakeel, for more than a month past.

No. 388—Want of proper guard prevents the journey of Palmer to Jejury

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 26th December 1800.

I dispatched my tents to Sassore on the 13th purposing to follow on the ensuing day, but am detained by the difficulty of procuring protection to my habitation and effects, my escort being very inadequate to that purpose and to my protection in camp at the same time. The most daring and atrocious robberies and murders in the prosecution of them are nightly perpetrated in the city I expect however to be furnished with a guard this day in which case, I shall proceed to-morrow morning.

No. 389—Palmer reveals in this letter the account of an intrigue conducted at Poona on behalf of Prince Faridun Jah, a son of Nizam Ali Khan.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY

Camp at Sassore, 23rd December 1800.

I came to the Peshwa's camp on the 20th I learn since my arrival that it is not His Highness's intention to move from his present situation until the removal of Sindia to a greater distance secures him against the effect of any treachery, which that Chief might execute by surprise. In his present position his person is in perfect safety from his vicinity to the fortress, which from appearance as well as the opinion of the natives, is utterly inaccessible to an enemy

I am credibly informed that Baajy Rao is intent on collecting the feudatory force of the empire, but with a secrecy and caution which is intended, it is said, to prevent Sindia taking alarm, but which, I imagine, may as well apply to any object concerted between these chieftains

Doulut Rao Sindia seems to be prosecuting his march to the northward as expeditiously as his deficiency of draft and carriage-cattle will admit. He purposed to be at Jaumgaum this day

I have not had an opportunity of waiting on the Peshwa, since my arrival in camp, as High Highness makes daily excursions to places of devotion at a considerable distance, whence he does not return until night He sent Moonshy Gopal Rao to compliment me on my arrival in camp who, in his name, made strong professions of attachment to the British nation and its government in India and of his desire to maintain a sincere amity with and mutual attention to the interests and security of both states.

Gopal Rao has proceeded to Poona for the purpose, as he informed me, of adjusting the affairs of Kashi Rao Holkar.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship the narrative which I have taken from the person who gave the information of the intrigue, conducted at these Durbars by Kader Hoosain Khan, to promote the views of Feridoon Jah. The informant promised but has not yet produced vouchers to authenticate the facts stated in his narrative. But these appear to be related in such order and connection as to be entitled to credit so far as respects the agency of Kadir Hoosain, though it is by no means improbable that this man may have acted without authority or have exceeded his authority for selfish purposes. It has however been long and generally believed at Poona that he was a secret agent of the Prince Feridoon Jah.

I have assured my informer of favour and protection if the truth of his testimony shall be established. He attends me without constraint, and I have avoided to press him for the documents which he has promised, lest he should suppose that I am inclined to credit any evidence which may be offered and frame such as he may think will gratify that propensity.

The Government of Bombay having been advised by the Honorable the Court of Directors of their having shipped a present for Doulut Rao Sind'a, consisting of a double-barrelled gun, an air-gun and a pair of pistols, has desired me to apply to your Lordship for instructions as to the mode of presentment. With a view to obtain your Lordship's early commands on this subject I mentioned to the Secretary in the Political Department under date the 9th of October, that I had been apprized of the intention of the Court of Directors by a private letter from Sir Charles Malet.

No. 390—Palmer infers secret plans on the part of the Peshwa and Sindia for some common object and suspects they may be directed against the Nizam. He communicates his suspicions to the Governor General.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Camp Sassore, 1st January 1801.

The Peshwa went to Poona on the 30th where he had a conference with Serjajee Ghautky who is detained there by indisposition, and returned to camp yesterday. In consequence of this interview, as I suppose, His Highness has determined to march in the course of two or three days towards Wahye, of which he has given me notice. The artillery being obliged to take a circuitous route moved this morning.

It may be inferred from the Peshwa's relinquishing the security which he derived from his vicinity to Poona, that his movements will be made in concert with Sindia and for some common object. This inference is further warranted by reports which have been made to me from Poona and the Peshwa's Durbar, of Sindia's intention to proceed immediately to the Gunga Godavery. It is indeed asserted that the views of this Chieftain are directly hostile to the Nizam. If he seriously meditates an attack on His Highness's dominions he no doubt relies on the support of the Peshwa and Ragojee Bhonsla. But I can observe no preparations on the part of the former for military enterprize. His force in this camp does not exceed three thousand men. It is probable that he will augment it in his progress, but I do not apprehend that with their united strength these chieftains would venture to commence an offensive war against the Nizam, supported as they know, he will be by the Company. If they really entertain any object of co-operation, it is most likely to be that of averting by an appearance of union any measures to the prejudice of the Mahratta empire in general, which, they may suspect, will result from the last treaty concluded between the Company and the Nizam.

I shall use every means in my power to discover and give your Lordship the earliest information of the real purposes of the movements of Baajy Rao and Sindia.

No. 391—Palmer reports to the Governor General that Sindia appeared finally determined upon proceeding to Hindustan and that the Peshwa may regain his independence in the south.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY

Camp at Sassore, 4th January 1801

I have received intimation from the Peshwa this morning of his intention to proceed to Wahye to-morrow, where he purposes to remain only one day, nor to be absent more than five days from this camp, in which he requests I will remain until his return.

It is credibly reported to me that His Highness's return to the capital is only deferred until Sindia shall move from Jaumgaum, and as that chief has sent his artillery forward with orders to prosecute its march without delay to Bourhaanpore, it may be presumed that he is seriously determined to proceed to Hindoostan. The declining state of his affairs in that quarter certainly renders such a determination highly expedient, if not absolutely necessary; while his separation from the Peshwa indicates his having relinquished any further views of aggrandizement in the Deccan, and which indeed he could not pursue without hazarding all his possessions north of the Nurbudda.

The Peshwa from the best information which I can obtain and from all the observation which it is in my power to make, appears to be intent solely on the preservation of that independence which he has acquired by the retreat of Sindia.

No. 392—Palmer informs the Secretary to Government that the Peshwa was collecting his troops at Poona for personal safety in the absence of Sindia.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—LIEUTT.-COL. WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK, Secretary to Government, Fort William.

Peshwa's Camp at Sassore, 22nd January, 1801.

It is reported that the Peshwa purposes to return to Poona in the course of two or three days and to encamp his troops near the city. This movement is likely to be in the Peshwa's contemplation, as Sindia has recommenced his march towards Hindoostan and Baajy Rao can have no other object but that of personal safety in maintaining his position here. I expect, however, to ascertain this point at my visit this evening and to receive some precise communication on his actual situation and intentions.

No. 393—The Resident reports the defenceless state of the Peshwa at Poona in the absence of Sindia, as he seemed exposed to the consequences of the formidable power of the Nizam.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 24th January 1801.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship of my return to Poona this morning. At my visit to the Peshwa on the 22nd in the evening, he intimated his intention of returning to the capital, but said he had not fixed on the day for leaving Sassore. Late at night however he sent me word that he would march in the morning. As I was not prepared to march on so short a notice, I remained yesterday in camp.

The Peshwa did not make any particular communication to me when I waited upon him. He said that his excursion had been merely for devotional purposes. But as he repeated his usual declarations of satisfaction at the harmony and friendship which subsisted between him and the Company, and his wish and expectation that these relations might be increased through my agency, I reminded him of the efforts which your Lordship had made to form an indissoluble union of interests and security between the two Governments, on terms of immediate and the most important and durable advantage to his authority and to the

maintenance of his dignity and influence in the general prosperity of the native Powers of India, to which I added my most sincere and anxious desire to be instrumental in promoting these great objects

The retreat of Sindia, while it relieves the Peshwa from the pressure of immediate control over his actions and from all apprehension for his personal safety, at the same time exposes him in a defenceless state, to the consequences which he fears will result from the now formidable power of the Nizam. And he may yet solicit the alliance which has been proposed to him, if he finds the Court of Hyderabad determined to resist the claims of this state, unless submitted to the arbitration of the Company

No. 394—That the Peshwa meditated a visit to Satara, is communicated to the Governor General by the Resident.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 30th January 1801.

Since the Peshwa's return to Poona, nothing certain is known of his future intentions, though his continuing to reside in the house of Baba Furkia instead of reoccupying his own habitation, indicates his meditating another excursion. From the best information which I can obtain, he intends to proceed to Sattara for the purpose of removing from that fortress some adherents of the Raja of whose designs he is suspicious, and who are too numerous to be expelled by the garrison, but may be secured when the Peshwa makes his visit to the Raja

It is however probable that the Peshwa's determination on his future movements will remain in suspense until Sindia passes the Godavery, and Serjajee Ghautky departs from Poona. Indeed Moonshy Gopal Rao at a meeting which he desired with Meer Fukiruddin on the 27th, said that His Highness was yet undetermined.

No. 395—*Writes Palmer to the Governor General, "it appears highly improbable that Bajirao will long maintain his authority unless supported by a respectable foreign force. He does not seem to consider seriously whether he possesses the means of remedying the disorders which overwhelm him".*

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 6th February 1801.

The Peshwa in consequence of Sindia's having passed the Godavery and daily prosecuting his march towards Hindustan, has returned to his own habitation and for the present relinquished his intention of making another excursion.

I learn by a communication from Moonshy Gopal Rao to Meer Fukiruddin, that Serjajee Ghautky, through the power and influence of Sindia, has obtained from the Peshwa the districts of Dharwar and Shanoor to hold partly in farm and partly in Foujedary. The unprincipled and audacious character of this man, his connection with the Raja of Koulapore and the support of three battalians left with him by Sindia, makes the Peshwa apprehensive that the tranquillity of the Company's territories on the Toombudra will be exposed to disturbance by the establishment of Serjajee on that frontier. The ostensible object of Gopal Rao in this communication, was to exculpate the Peshwa and to make Serjajee responsible for any aggressions which may be committed against the Company's subjects or possessions by the Mahrattas on that boundary. But as the Peshwa is seriously alarmed for his own interests from the power and designs of Serjajee, his real motive in expressing his apprehension for those of the Company is perhaps to check the views of that Sirdar by rendering him an object of your Lordship's distrust.

Serjajee himself, at a visit which he made me to take leave, was very earnest in his professions of maintaining, in his new situation, the most scrupulous attention and respect to the rights and property of the Company and to refer to your Lordship every misunderstanding, if any should unfortunately arise from the misconduct of individuals on either side ; and he cannot be ignorant that his interests and safety require his utmost caution to avoid any injury or offence to the British Government.

I am however doubtful whether Serjajee will ever obtain possession of these appointments. The Peshwa detains him at Poona by insidious pretences of regard and desire to do him honor, while he is known to hold him in the utmost abhorrence and is supposed to be actually meditating his destruction. Nobody will lament the fall of such a miscreant as Ghautky, but Baajy Rao either does not perceive or does not regard the injury which his own character and interests will sustain by destroying him perfidiously.

It is generally apprehended that Baajy Rao will make a very bad use of the authority in which he is left, without control, by the departure of Sindia. The first measure in his contemplation is gradually to pillage and depress the great and opulent families in the state, beginning with that of Baba Furkia into which he has married, and finally to reduce all the Jaghiredars by force or fraud.

Whether the Peshwa really entertains such designs or they are fabricated to justify others which may be formed against him, it is difficult to know ; but both are probable from his character and from the almost universal distrust and disaffection which it has occasioned towards his person and government.

It appears to me highly improbable that he will long maintain his authority unless supported by a respectable foreign force within his

dominions As he has lately intimated a desire that Meer Fikiruddin should attend him though he has deferred it from day to day, I have instructed the Meer, in case His Highness's conversation should turn on his own situation and prospects, to bring to his recollection in the most favourable and impressive manner, the low state to which his authority and the strength of the empire have been reduced by the unprincipled ambition, overgrown power and dissensions of some of its great members, and seriously to consider whether he possesses the means of remedying these disorders or averting their consequences But I fear that it will be only when these consequences fatally press upon him that he will think of resorting to that certain relief, which his friends and allies are desirous of affording him.

No. 396—The Resident reports that Sarjajee Ghatge was apprehensive of Bajirao's design on his life, and that the Maratha country was harassed by freebooters almost in every direction.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 13th February 1801.

Since my last address no transaction has occurred in this state that can immediately or remotely affect the existing or probable relations of your Lordship's Government to it. The Peshwa is principally occupied in contriving means to evade his engagements to Serjajee Ghautky, without subjecting himself to the effects of Sindia's resentment

Serjajee is not only aware of Baajy Rao's intention to deceive him, but is apprehensive of a design upon his life He sent for Meer Fikiruddin on the 10th purposely to communicate his suspicions In detailing these he vented the bitterest reproaches on the Peshwa's treachery and ingratitude He said that it was by his counsel and influence (as the Peshwa well knew) that Sindia had been induced to support him on the Musnud and to depress Nana, Purseram Bhow and other powerful members of the state of whom Baajy Rao was jealous ; and above all to check the projects of Emrut Rao for deposing him. That his known envy of the power and prosperity of every individual in the empire, and the insidious arts which he practices for the ruin of those who are the objects of it, have excited a general spirit of discontent and disaffection towards his person and government, which will soon operate to his destruction, now that he has deprived himself of all claim to further support from Sindia by the base return which he has made to such important services

Serjajee said he was sensible that I could take no part in a transaction of this nature, but he wished I should be fully informed of it with a view to

to extenuate in your Lordship's opinion such conduct to the Peshwa as might be indispensable for his own preservation.

I imagine that in this last intimation Serjajee must refer to future measures ; for at present he is entirely in the Peshwa's power, having only eight Companies of Sepoy's for his protection. I do not however think that Baajy Rao will attempt his life. His efforts at present are to soothe and deceive him and it would be an act of superfluous wickedness to cut him off, as he appears to be rapidly wasting by a loathsome disease.

The Peshwa either has not obtained any increase of authority by the departure of Sindia or does not think that order, subordination and tranquillity within his dominion, are objects requiring the exercise of it, as the country is harassed by freebooters in almost every direction, conducted by leaders in the service of or subject to the state, nor is he either more capable of or more attentive to the protection of his territories against foreign attack. He is perhaps confident that any efforts which he can make to repel the latter, would be unavailing and may have determined to deprecate it by concession.

No. 397—In this letter the Resident dissects the motives of Bajirao, Daulatrao and Sarjajee in the lines of action that they were following with regard to each other.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 20th February 1801.

I learn that the Peshwa has for some days past been occupied in measures for assembling and subsisting the army of the state, and that the jaghiredars and other feudatory chiefs are summoned to bring their respective contingents into the field without delay. The declared purposes of this military preparation are to repress the depredations of Eswunt Rao, Serjajee and other insurgents, and to restore order and tranquillity throughout the country. But its real object is to provide against the dangers apprehended from the views of the court of Hyderabad, of which the most alarming reports are constantly made to the Peshwa from that City and from the frontier.

Although the authority of Baajy Rao is but little respected in the Mahratta empire and perhaps not an individual of note is attached to his person, a large force of cavalry may at all times be collected in this state by the prospects of booty and free subsistence.

I cannot easily believe that the Peshwa, with an army calculated only for the operations of ravage and devastation, will hazard a war rather than submit to a fair discussion and friendly arbitration of disputed claims. But if he should venture on hostilities, his attempts will be confined to laying waste the country of his enemy, or his own, if invaded

Serjajee Ghautky has marched towards Koulapore highly exasperated against Baajy Rao. He made me another visit a day or two previous to his departure, when he informed me that he had received Doulut Rao Sindia's commands to give me the strongest assurances of the sincere disposition and earnest desire of that chieftain to maintain perfect cordiality and harmony with the Company and the Nizam, and that he would pursue no measure by which either government could suppose its interests might be affected, without giving your Lordship notice of it.

Serjajee proceeded to state that having made Sindia fully acquainted with the perfidious conduct of Baajy Rao towards him, the former had assured him that if the Peshwa should not precisely fulfil his engagements, he would return to Poona and make such alterations in the government as the weak and faithless character of Baajy Rao had long required. Serjajee added that Sindia, should he be reduced to the extremity of adopting such a measure, not only hoped it would not be considered by your Lordship as weakening the connection subsisting between the Company and their allies and the Mahratta State, but trusted that it might be productive of closer ties and the most important mutual advantages

Serjajee told me that Sindia would halt at Bourhanpoor until he could join him, after he should have concerted measures with the Raja of Koulapoor for obtaining possession of and maintaining the places to be assigned to him by the Peshwa, and which he expected to effect in the course of a month or six weeks.

I believe that Ghautky has faithfully related to me such communications as he has received from Sindia, but there is much appearance of being himself deceived, and that there is a better understanding between Baajy Rao and Doulut Rao than is generally supposed. If Sindia had been truly solicitous for the establishment of Serjajee, he would have secured it (as it was undoubtedly in his power) before his departure from Poona and not have trusted to the promises of Baajy Rao, to whose total disregard of the most solemn engagements Sindia is no stranger. Nor is it probable that the Peshwa would risque incurring Doulut Rao's resentment if he apprehended it, as it would be seriously excited by the disappointment of Serjajee Ghautky.

* * * *

Serjajee assured me that an interview will take place between Sindia and the Raja of Berar near Gurra Mundelah.

I am informed that the Peshwa is in treaty with both factions of the Guikwar Government, but as that in possession may be more easily supported and is more capable of satisfying his demands than its opponent, it will probably be confirmed.

The Peshwa has given me notice of his wish to see me either to-morrow or the day following, but without any intimation of the subject on which he desires to confer with me. I have expressed my readiness to attend him at whatever time he may appoint.

No. 398—Sarjajee Ghatge, reports the Resident, was ravaging the country and laying the towns under contribution on his march to Kolhapur.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 24th February 1801.

Serjajee Ghautky is prosecuting his route to Koulapore without being reconciled to the Peshwa, who has sent several messengers to invite him to return to Poona. He indemnifies himself to the utmost of his power for the failure of the Peshwa's promises to him by ravaging the country and laying the towns on his march under contribution.

No. 399—The Resident reports military preparations by the Peshwa towards the Nizam's frontier and the depredations committed by Jivaji Yashwant, an insurgent Sardar in league with Amritrao. Palmer was transferred from Poona and was allowed to hand over charge to his assistant before the arrival of his successor.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 6th March 1801.

I have been honoured with your Lordship's Commands from the Political Department and beg leave to offer my respectful acknowledgments for the permission which your Lordship has been pleased to grant me, of transferring the temporary charge of my office to my assistant if the state of my health, or my private convenience, should render it desirable to me to retire before the arrival of my Successor. Should either of these circumstances occur, I shall avail myself of your Lordship's indulgence, in which event I will not fail to leave instructions with my assistant to apply to the Resident at Hyderabad for directions, in case the Peshwa should renew his proposals for being admitted to the treaty of general defensive alliance.

His Highness being at this time under no immediate apprehensions of the subversion of his authority, it is not probable that he will revive the negotiations lately closed, or at least that he will accede to the stipulations which he has hitherto rejected. He is apprehensive that his claims on the Nizam will be disputed and perhaps conscious that they will not stand the test of a just and impartial examination. He may think that he has a better chance of preserving the advantages which he derives under them, by appearing determined to assert them in arms, than by submitting them to arbitration. It is to these considerations I attribute His Highness's drawing out the troops of the empire towards the Nizam's frontier and his reluctance to make concessions, which are unpalatable to him, for an object so doubtful as that of establishing either in justice or by connection, the right of this Government to the revenue which it exacts from the dominions of the Nizam.

I shall not, however, believe that the Peshwa will hostilely resist the claims of the Court of Hyderabad rather than refer them to the arbitration of the Company, until I am certain that he will be supported by Doulut Rao Sindia and Ragojee Bhonsla. And I can at present discover no signs of concert or of a common interest between these chieftains.

The Peshwa has sent offers of pardon and favour to Jewajee Eswunt, an insurgent Sirdar and dependent on Emrut Rao, who for several months past has ravaged and desolated the possessions of the Peshwa, Sindia and other chiefs, and is now advanced within 50 miles of Poona at the head of 12 or 15,000 horse. The Peshwa's motive for pardoning this audacious freebooter is supposed to be to detach him from his connection with Emrut Rao, of whose designs Baajy Rao either from information or natural distrust, is again become suspicious.

It is however, very difficult to ascertain the real views of the Peshwa in any measure which he adopts and he may have been induced by his fears of Jewajee's advancing to Poona, or his wish to engage him and his troops in his service, to make such degrading concessions to a rebel in arms. But whatever may have been His Highness's motive, I just now learn that this insurgent has suddenly retreated towards Solapore on learning the near approach of a detachment of Sindia's troops, which has long been in pursuit of him and which has advanced to Wagholy within twelve miles of Poona, committing at that place and on its route greater depredations than the force which it is sent to suppress.

Heavy complaints are made to the Court of Hyderabad of ravages and exactions in His Highness's dominions by the Mahratta cavalry. At the desire of Major Kirkpatrick I have sent Meer Fokiruddin to the Durbar to remonstrate on these aggressions. I have no doubt that they will be disavowed, but it is not in the Peshwa's power to restrain them. They receive no subsistence from government and as he will know that they

would subsist themselves, he ought not to have placed them on the Nizam's frontier in such force as enables them to perpetrate these outrages with impunity. His Highness has no force in that position, which can give alarm or umbrage to this State.

No. 400—The Resident reports the precarious position of Bajirao being unable to support himself without the help of Sindia and to ward off the trouble created by Jivaji Yashwant.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 13th March 1801.

Some alarm is entertained in this city at the vicinity of Sindia's troops. The detachment is already formidable and a large reinforcement is approaching. The plunder of Poona is thought to be too inviting an object to be resisted by troops who are nine months in arrears.

The Peshwa is by no means easy in the present position of this force although it was detached at his request to reduce the insurgent Jewajee Eswunt. It is however not probable that Sindia would have divided his army to such an extent merely to relieve the Peshwa from the depredations of Jewajee. He was apprehensive that if the latter should form a junction with Balkishen,* their united force would be able to penetrate into Hindustan and support the malcontents of his Government in that quarter. It is also a matter of some consideration to Sindia to find subsistence for this large detachment at the expense of the Peshwa. But Baajy Rao is apprehensive of further designs excited by Serjajee Ghautky, and is therefore anxious for an accommodation with Jewajee, that no pretext may remain for the continuance of Sindia's troops in this neighbourhood, nor the opportunity be afforded to Serjajee to join them. With this view the Peshwa has prevailed on Jewajee to advance within 18 coss of Poona and renew the negotiations for his submission and indemnity.

Although the Peshwa must now be fully convinced that he cannot maintain the country without the assistance of Sindia's army, nor preserve his own authority and independence while he is obliged to have recourse to it, he does not evince the least disposition to resort to the only means by which he can be assured of completely providing against the dangers and defects of his government.

* Balkrishna Gangadhar Bawanpage, Yesaji Ramkrishna and Jivaji Yashavant, these were Saraswat Brahmins serving in Sindia's army, who now left him and ravaged the country to recoup themselves for their losses in pay.

No. 401—The Resident writes that the Peshwa is full of troubles from all sides, but with a very limited understanding is capable of great artifice and the most profound dissimulation. He seems little affected by the outrageous insults to his authority or the miserable condition of his country.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 20th March 1801.

Moonshy Gopal Rao at a visit made to him by Meer Fukuruddin to compliment him on his receiving a Kellaat and a charge of horse and other marks of favour from the Peshwa, took occasion to insinuate in answer to my expostulation on His Highness's refusal to permit the purchase of cattle in his dominions for the service of the Company, that the British Government by declining the terms on which the Peshwa proposed to become a party in the general defensive alliance, had deprived itself of the application of the strength and resources of this State towards the reduction of its enemies.

Fukuruddin, considering this insinuation as calculated to revive the late discussions, observed that your Lordship had never relinquished the object of uniting this empire in the ties of mutual interests and security with the Company and its allies. But that you were unalterably convinced of the impracticability of the Peshwa's contributing to those great purposes of the alliance, unless he would admit of an efficient British force for the recovery and maintenance of his due authority and the internal tranquillity of his country.

Gopal Rao knowing perhaps the Peshwa's inflexibility on this point, and having no expectation that your Lordship will recede from it, did not pursue the subject.

He mentioned at this meeting that he had incurred the resentment of Sedasheo Munkaiser, the Peshwa's agent in his intercourse with the Court of Hyderabad, who had reproached him with having committed the interests and concerns of this state in the Nizam's Government to the disposal of the Company, because he had transmitted the answer to the remonstrance which I made at the desire of Major Kirkpatrick, of the aggressions of the Peshwa's troops in the Nizam's territories through the same channels by which the complaint was made.

Sedasheo Munkaiser is the confidential correspondent of Rajah Ragotim Rao. They are believed to promote each other's political views and personal interests at their respective Courts and to be determinedly hostile to the British connection or influence.

It is probable that Gopal Rao is induced by selfish motives to effect a change in the agency between the two Courts, as he would derive additional

weight, consideration and security from being the medium of it at this Court, if it should be transferred to the Company's Residents. But such expectations are the best pledge for his conduct in advancing the interests of the Company, and in the present degree of confidence and favour in which he seems to stand with the Peshwa, it may be of some moment to encourage his attachment. And I judge from his having professed (however sincerely) to Fukiruddin that the Peshwa's kindness to him at this time proceeds in a great measure from the consideration and distinction with which I have treated him, that he is desirous of securing himself by meriting the protection of the British Government against the enmity and rivalry of Shendasheo Munkaiser and Balloo Khoonjer and perhaps, of the precarious friendship of his master.

The Peshwa is said to be still apprehensive of machinations by his brother Emrut Rao to subvert his authority, and reports of the Rao's intrigues to this effect at the courts of the Nizam and Sindia, are very public and general. But I can perceive no movement or preparation from any quarter of the supposed confederacy tending to a revolution in this State, nor any precautions on the part of the Peshwa proportioned to a danger of such magnitude. And although an astrologer on whose counsels and predictions Emrut Rao affects to place much reliance, has called on Meer Fukiruddin, pretending a message from the Rao, to impart to me his expectation of support from the Nizam to place him at the head of this administration and to solicit my favouring this design, yet I am much inclined to believe that these rumours and communications originate from the Peshwa himself, either with a view to sound the public disposition or to justify measures which he may intend to pursue against his brother. For His Highness with a very limited understanding is capable of great artifice and the most profound dissimulation.

The insurgent force collected by Balkishen, has been totally defeated and dispersed by the Peshwa's troops command by Gunput Rao Phaunsi. Balkishen in person immediately came to Poona and threw himself upon the Peshwa's mercy and was yesterday pardoned and admitted to the Durbar. Jewajee Eswunt also has sent his brother to sue for a general amnesty to himself and followers, and engaging on this condition to lay down his arms or enter into the Peshwa's service if His Highness should require it. This emissary has been admitted to the Peshwa's presence and graciously received, whence it is inferred that his suit will be successful.

I just now learn that Sindia's detachment has approached and encamped within a few miles of Poona for the purpose, I believe, of obtaining money from the Peshwa. The ravages of this body of troops exceeds those of the insurgents whom they were sent to suppress. The Peshwa appears to be but little affected by these outrageous insults to his authority or the miserable condition of his country.

No. 402—The Peshwa is reported to be forming a corps of regular infantry of his own.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 27th March 1801

No occurrence deserving your Lordship's attention has taken place in this Government since my last address. The Peshwa appears to be almost exclusively occupied in suppressing the insurrection of Jewajee Eswunt. But whether he has determined to effect it by negotiation or arms is doubtful; while he is treating with the brother of that insurgent for his submission, he seems to intend reducing him by force as the troops under Gunput Rao Phaunsi and Sindia's detachment have marched in that direction to surround him, though the movement of the latter is professed to be for the purpose of admitting his repairing to Poona in safety. It is not however likely that he will be deceived by it.

Babba Rao Angria is daily expected at Poona on his way to join Sindia. He is invested with the charge of the detachment and is to reconduct it to Bourhaanpore when the service on which it is now employed is accomplished. Serjajee Ghautky also is reported to be on his march hither from Koulapore with four battalions of Sindia's troops. The Peshwa does not manifest any uneasiness at the presence of this large force of Sindia's troops, whence it may be inferred, that he is either confident of that Chief's fidelity or relies on the rivalry and enmity subsisting between Babba Rao and Ghautky for his security. The appearance of these Sirdars will probably lead to a disclosure of the real situation and views of this Court in its domestic and foreign relations.

I am informed that the Peshwa has resolved on forming a corps of regular infantry to consist of five battalions and has actually issued orders to this effect.

No 403—The arrest and confiscation of property of the Raste Sardars and of Jivaji Yashwant are reported in this letter, which graphically describes Bajirao's wicked ways.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY

Poona, 3rd April 1801.

The current transactions of this Government would have little claim to your Lordship's attention, if the system of fraud, perfidy and violence pursued by the Peshwa towards every subject of the state who may be

an object of his vengeance or rapacity, did not indicate a revolution which will probably effect a change in the political relations of this empire with the Company and its allies. Some recent occurrences have confirmed the general opinion, already but too well founded, of Baajy Rao being totally irreclaimable to good faith, honor or justice and excited a universal and invincible distrust of him and disaffection to his person and authority.

The brothers of Jewajee Eswunt and Balkishen Gangadur, the leaders of two separate bands of insurgents, were invited to repair to the Durbar under solemn promises of personal safety and encouragement to expect service from the Peshwa on their submission. While these persons were treating on the faith of those assurances, they were made prisoners and orders sent to the commanders of the Peshwa's troops to attack the insurgents; these orders were executed and Jewajee Eswunt put to the rout and his troops dispersed with little or no resistance.

On the 1st instant, Mahadow Rao Rastah and Kashi Rao Rastah, paternal uncles to the Peshwa's wife, with three of their sons, were seized at the Durbar, put into confinement and their house plundered, without even the pretext of any crime being alleged against them, and the very day after the Peshwa had made them a visit to assure them of his friendship and to remove their apprehensions on account of their agent at Whye having been seized by Balloo Khoonjir's son, in consequence of which they had for some days refrained from their usual attendance at the Durbar.

On the same day, for what reason does not appear, the Peshwa changed all the attendants of the widow of his predecessor and placed about her persons of his own appointment, with orders to confine her to her apartment. This lady is a daughter of the Furkia family.*

Baajy Rao has also attempted to get the Kelladar of Loghur into his power by inviting his sons to court under promise of preferment. This man held the fort for Nana and is supposed to have in his custody a large portion of that minister's wealth. But he has plainly told the Peshwa he will not trust him.

While His Highness thus disgusts and exasperates these and other respectable chieftains, he is at no pains to conciliate others or guard against the consequences except in the good understanding which his fears induce him to maintain with Sindia, nor does any confidence or cordiality subsist even in his family. He is perhaps more suspicious of his brothers than of any other person.

It is doubtful whether Sindia's detachment will return to Bourhaanpore or come again to obtain money from the Peshwa. The latter is most probable, if, as I hear, he has promised to disburse its subsistence during

* Yashodabai, wife of Madhaorao II, came from the Gokhale family of Vijayadurg.

its present service. And it is perhaps to fulfil this engagement that he has seized the Rastah's persons and will confiscate their property which is reputed to be very great.

I am informed that the Peshwa has proposed to Sindia a junction of force to regulate the administration of Brodera. I do not know whether Sindia has agreed to the proposal, but if the measure should be adopted, I shall not fail to assert the Company's guarantee of the rights of the Guickwar Government in the most explicit terms

I do not hear that Serjajee Ghautky has advanced towards Poona, but he menaces the Peshwa with a visit. I have no recent intelligence of the approach of Babba Rao Angria

I was mistaken in stating above the marriages of the present and late Peshwas Baajy Rao's wife is a daughter of the house of Furkia.

No. 404—Palmer reports that the Peshwa's favourite object at present is to recover the authority maintained by his predecessors, but that he was not likely to succeed in the attempt.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 13th April 1801.

The proceedings of this Government since I had the honour to address your Lordship last, have been confined solely to domestic concerns of little or no interest or importance to other states. The object on which the Peshwa appears to be most intent, is to reduce the great chieftains and Jaghirdars to their original dependence on the head of the empire, or rather to suppress them entirely, a measure of very uncertain event and which must long exclude him from taking any important part in foreign politics. It appears, in fact, as far as I have been able to ascertain from observation and enquiry, that he wishes to suspend any discussion of mutual claims between him and the Nizam that might tend to interrupt his favourite project of recovering the authority maintained by his predecessors.

It is, however, by no means probable that Baajy Rao will succeed in the attempt. His treatment of the Rastah family has excited suspicion of his design in every chieftain who is wealthy or independent, and if he proceeds in his scheme, it is probable that a general confederacy against him will take place

The insurrection headed by Jewajee Eswunt is not entirely suppressed, that leader having either retreated with or reassembled after his flight a body of six or eight thousand horse, with which he is now reported to be retiring towards Guzerat, followed by the Peshwa's troops.

Sindia's detachment appears to be on its return to Bourhaanpore, as a person informs me that he left it four days ago advanced about 50 Coss on that route on the banks of the Godavery.

If this detachment is actually on its march to rejoin the army, it is not likely that Serjajee Ghautky with the small force under his orders will attempt to give the Peshwa any disturbance; and indeed I am informed that Sindia has directed him to proceed immediately to Bourhaanpore.

No. 405—The ignominious and barbarous execution of Vithoji Holkar by Bajirao is reported in this letter.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 20th April 1801.

I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information translation of a note from Moonshy Gopal Rao to Moonshy Fukiruddin and of the answer to it, and which I have transmitted for communication to the Court of Hyderabad through the Resident.

The Peshwa's attempt to incriminate on the Nizam the charge of (torn) is, I conceive, from his making me the channel of its conveyance, intended chiefly to impress your Lordship with a belief that this state has an equal claim to redress of injuries from His Highness, and, of course, to prevent or delay your engaging in his support, and generally to evade that satisfaction which this government is not disposed to give, nor prepared to contest by arms.

It may be inferred from the violent and odious proceedings of Baajy Rao in his internal administration, that he must be desirous to avoid all foreign disputes; since his unjustifiable seizure of the Rastah family and their property, he has greatly increased the dread and detestation of his character by an ignominious and barbarous execution of Etul Rao Holkar, half brother of Kashi Rao Holkar, who was concerned in the late (torn). It is admitted that this person deserved punishment and even that of death would not have been censured, if it had been inflicted with any respect to the distinguished family of which he was a member. It is painful to me to draw your Lordship's attention to scenes of cruelty and injustice, but as the Peshwa's character is likely to influence the events of his government and materially to affect the interests of the Company and their allies in their several relations to this State, I do not conceive myself at liberty to suppress the mention of such transactions as may enable your Lordship to judge of it, and of the consequences which it may produce.

Moonshy Gopal Rao informs me that the Peshwa intends in the course of a few days to make a visit to the Sahow Rajah at Sattara, and about two months hence will repair to Kopergowng on the banks of the Godavery, where he purposes to canton during the rains. This expression appears very consistent with what I understand of his views and situation. He hopes by assembling a considerable army in the field to recover his authority over every subordinate chief of the State, Sindia not excepted, to check the designs of the disaffected and to make a respectable appearance in the eyes of foreign powers. But these are objects which if he really entertains, he is not likely to accomplish without powerful aid, and this, it is asserted, he will obtain from the Rajah of Berar who, on his part, may have sufficient views of interests and aggrandizement to engage in such a plan of policy.

The Peshwa has not received any certain intelligence lately of Jewajee Eswunt's situation. It may therefore be inferred that he is not in a condition to give any further disturbance to the Court of Poona. Sindia's Detachment continues its march towards Bourhaanpore and that Chief declares his intention to canton at Ogeine during the season of the rains.

Serjajee Ghautky has collected a force of 12 or 15,000 horse with which he is occupied in levying contributions on the possessions of Pursaram Bhow's family.

Babba Rao Angria is detained at Colabah by some dissensions which have occurred in his government.

I just now learn that the Peshwa is indisposed of fever.

No. 406—Increasing embarrassments of Sindia owing to his rupture with Yashwantrao Holkar are communicated by the Resident to the Governor General.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 4th May 1801

Since the Peshwa's return from Sassore, which was not until the 2nd instant, my intercourse with the Durbar and the communication of His Highness's sentiments on the Nizam's answer to his message conveyed through me, have been suspended by the celebration of a wedding in Moonshy Gopal Rao's family

No interesting occurrence has taken place in this State since my last address. The Peshwa still avows his intention to canton on the Godavery

at Kopergowng during the rainy season, but the period of his departure appears to be distant. It is difficult to discover his real motive for taking such a position in such a season, but his avowed purpose is no other than that of performing his devotions at Nassik and other celebrated places of worship in the vicinity of his intended station.

The embarrassments of Sindia's affairs in Hindustan being much increased by his rupture with Eswunt Rao Holkar, he seems to think his immediate presence in that quarter indispensable and his departure from Bourhaanpore is, I understand, delayed only for the junction of his detachments. He is very urgent for the return of Serjajee Ghautky, but that Minister has, I believe, no intention to rejoin him, and has in view an independent establishment towards the southern frontier of this state, which he hopes to obtain partly by concession from the Peshwa and partly to wrest by force from the jagheer of Pursaram Bhow.

No. 407—Troubles all round for Sindia and Bajirao and depredations created by
• Sarjajee Ghatge are the topics of this letter.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 8th May 1801.

Doulut Rao Sindia having entered his tents at the distance of two coss from Bourhaanpore on the road to Ogeine, his final and immediate departure from the Deccan may be expected. And this event, together with the serious discontents and apprehensions which the conduct and character of Baajy Rao have excited against * * * and Government, will probably induce him to cultivate the friendship and seek the protection of the British Government and its ally, the Nizam, rather than incur their just resentment by fresh aggressions.

Serjajee Gautky continues his depredations on the country and exactions on the Zemindars, without check or control from the government and, perhaps, with its connivance. He has lately reduced a fort belonging to the Rastah family in which, as is reported, he found a very considerable booty.

I have received intimation of an insurrection being in agitation of which the sons of Pursaram Bhow are the leaders, to effect a revolution in this State in favour of Chimna Appa. But the information is too vague and general to admit of my forming any opinion of its authenticity.

No. 408—The Resident writes of an intrigue formed by the Peshwa with the Nizam to incriminate Serajee Ghatge and involve him in trouble.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 11th May 1801.

Since I had the honor to address your Lordship on the 8th instant, I have learned from Moonshy Gopal Rao that the information which I therein stated to have received, of the Peshwa's intended justification respecting the offensive letter delivered in his name by Kauder Hoossain Khaun to the Nizam was correct, but with the reserve on the part of Gopal Rao, of the Peshwa being really ignorant of the transaction

It appears, however, that the Hoozras who attended Kauder Hoossain to Hyderabad, are actually domestics of the Peshwa and have been on other occasions confidentially employed by him. I find that both have returned with the Nizam's messenger, though only one of them has been examined by the Peshwa. On his examination at which Gopal Rao was present, when asked why he accompanied Kauder Hoossain, instead of repairing to his family, on which pretence he had obtained leave of absence, he answered that he was induced to it by the promise of reward, Kauder Hoossain informing him that he was going on an important mission from the Peshwa and Sindia to the Nizam. He denied any knowledge of the means by which Kauder Hoossain obtained the letters in question.

Gopal Rao intimated his own opinion of the letters having been fabricated by Serajee Gautky and Balloo Khoonjer in concert, but did not appear to think that the Peshwa had any intention to criminate the latter.

Information of the proceedings of the Durbar on this subject having reached Babboo Pahtunkhur, the agent of Serajee Gautky with the Peshwa, he has apprized his principal of the designs meditated against him and advised him to refrain from coming to Poona as was his intention, lest the Peshwa should attempt to sacrifice him to the resentment of the offended powers.

From this advice it may be inferred that Serajee is implicated in the transaction, and though it may be with the participation of the Peshwa, his situation here would be equally dangerous, if it is determined to make him the victim of the Peshwa's apprehensions.

I have stated the circumstances which have come to my knowledge in the present stage of the proceedings, as it may be of great importance that your Lordship should form an early decision on the conduct which may be ascribed to the Peshwa and Sindia in this very offensive and unprovoked transaction.

The Peshwa has fixed on the 10th of the ensuing moon for commencing his journey to Kopergown.

No. 409—The Resident communicates the formation of a plot for bringing about a revolution at Poona for displacing the Peshwa.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 18th May 1801.

Gopal Rao says that the Peshwa in answer to the doubts expressed by the Nizam of the letters delivered by Kauder Hussein Khan being genuine, has entirely disavowed that emissary, and desired that he may be compelled to declare from whose hands he received the letter which he has presented in his name, that the incendiary who has employed him may be detected and punished.

The conspiracy for a revolution in the government of this State, of which I had the honor to inform your Lordship in my address of the * * * * I had received some notice, I now learn, is for the present suspended in consequence of the imprisonment of the Rastahs, who are said to be concerned in it. But the plan is by no means abandoned, and such is the general distrust and dislike of Baajy Rao which prevails in his dominions, that it is far from improbable the revival of this plot or other confederacies will deprive him of his authority.

It does not appear to me that any considerable party in the Mahratta empire will espouse the interests of Emrut Rao, who is still less esteemed and as little trusted as the Peshwa. The character of Chimna Appa is little known, but his youth is a circumstance which is likely to suit the views of any party which may bring him into power.

Serjajee Gautky is encamped at the distance of about 40 coss to the southward of Poona with a force of 5 battalions of Sindia's infantry and 8 or 10,000 horse. Whether it is his intention to march to Poona or not, is not yet known, but the Peshwa takes great pains to divert him from this direction.

Gopal Rao assures me that the Peshwa will commence his journey to Kopergowng on the 18th of this moon or 2nd June, and he has certainly remitted money to defray the expense of accommodation for himself and cantonments for his troops.

Doulut Rao Sindia is still encamped near Bourhanpore and a considerable part of his army is employed in reducing the possessions of Kashi Rao Holkar in Khandeish.

No. 410—Bajirao is reported not to be disposed to accept British mediation in settling his dispute with the Nizam. Sarjajee Ghatge is mentioned as threatening Poona.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 22nd May 1801.

After repeated applications to the Peshwa for his answers to the representations which I have made to him from the Court of Hyderabad, he has at length directed Moonshy Gopal Rao to signify to me, that he considers the expedient, suggested by Azim-ul Omrah for finally adjusting the points in dispute by the mediation of the Company, as unnecessary, since they are neither so important, nor difficult, as to require the intervention of a mediator. With respect to the observation of Azim-ul-Omrah, that no specification of time was annexed to the Nizam's obligation for the payment of twenty-five lacs of rupees in consideration of the cessions of the remaining chout of Bedar and lands to the annual value of 4 lacs of rupees, the Peshwa remarks that it must be admitted in fair construction that the payment will be due whenever the cessions shall be executed. The Nizam has retained the Chout of Bedar, let him take possession of the district engaged to be ceded and discharge his pecuniary engagement given in consideration of these cessions. In regard to complaints of depredations the Peshwa replies that it has long been the practice of the commanders of both states, when not under the immediate check or control of their respective governments, to make predatory incursions into the territories of each other, and that such practices being discountenanced and restrained as far as practicable by the authority of both states, they had never been considered as a subject of serious misunderstanding.

The Peshwa having been influenced by Shadesheo Munkaiser and Balloo Khoonjer to depart from the mode of discussion with the Court of Hyderabad through the British Resident, which Gopal Rao had prevailed upon him to adopt, he now affects to consider the points above recited, as the only remaining differences subsisting between him and the Nizam, that he may have a pretext for declining that mediation which he has lately manifested a disposition to accept.

The rivals of Gopal Rao seem to have superseded his influence and to have rendered him suspected by the Peshwa on account of his endeavours to promote the confidence and improve the connection of his master with the British Government, as the Peshwa has lately held long and frequent consultations with Shedasheo Rao and Balloo Khoonjer, to which Gopal Rao has not been admitted. It perhaps required no great efforts on these men to divert Baajy Rao from a system to which, from his natural

distrust of superior power, he was but little inclined, and thus every attempt to engage him in measures for the maintenance of his authority and the welfare of his dominions, is likely to be frustrated by the interested views of his confidants, aided by his own prejudices, weakness and inconsistency. And so long as these two men retain ascendancy in the Peshwa's councils it will not be practicable for any other minister, who might be induced, either by his own advantage or by a real regard for the good of the state, to promote the British interests at this court.

Serjajee Ghautky on being advised by Baboo Pahtungher of the Peshwa's intention to charge him as the author of the letters delivered by Kauder Hussein Khan to the Nizam, has directed his agent to insinuate to Baajy Rao that he cannot be at a loss to know with whom this intrigue originated, to recommend to him that immediate satisfaction be given to the Nizam's demand of an explanation as a matter of very serious importance, and to inform him that for the adjustment of other depending concerns he will soon repair to Poona. The Peshwa, alarmed by this intimation, has promised to fulfil his engagements to Serjajee if he will retire.

No. 411—The Resident speaks of an intrigue on the part of Amritrao to dispossess Bajirao of his power.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 29th May 1801.

Nothing has appeared in the proceedings of this Court since my last address, which can throw additional light on the Peshwa's real and ultimate purposes in the measures which he has adopted, of deputing an extraordinary embassy to the Nizam, and of cantoning during the rainy season on the banks of the Godavery. But neither his actual condition, nor resources, whether considered in respect to his own immediate power or to the dispositions and abilities of the principal members of the Mahrattah Empire in aid of it, are of a nature to encourage his entertaining hostile views towards the British Government and its allies. On the contrary, it is probably his object to secure his authority against the designs of disaffected persons, both in his family and government, by conciliating the Nizam and by engaging the support of the great chieftains of the state and by being prepared to act as occasion may require, with an army in the field.

His suspicion of Emrut Rao's disloyalty has been recently stimulated by a Pundit who was long in the Rao's confidence and has disclosed to the Peshwa various intrigues and practices of his brother against his person and government, particularly the Rao's correspondence with the Courts of Hyderabad and Nagpore and his tampering with this informer as a priest to invoke the death of the Peshwa. A knowledge of these circumstances, however, was not required for Baajy Rao's settled conviction of his brother's designs, nor for his determination to defeat them by apprehending the Rao's person, who on the other hand, is perfectly aware of the Peshwa's suspicions and assiduously occupied in guarding against or anticipating the consequences to be expected from them.

The Peshwa has detached a considerable force to Sattarah under the apprehension that Serjajee Ghautky, who is in that neighbourhood, may attempt to obtain possession of the person of the Sahou Rajah, the nominal head of the Mahratta Empire, who is confined in that fortress.

I just now learn from Moonshy Gopal Rao, that the Peshwa has postponed his intended journey to Kopergown for the space of ten weeks.

On an application to the Peshwa for permission to purchase rice in his dominions for the service of the Bombay Government, I have found him more accommodating than on my late application for the purchase of cattle, His Highness having complied to the extent of 20,000 maunds, with an exemption of duties.

No. 412—Plans on the part of the Peshwa's brother Chimna Appa to depose the former are communicated to the Governor General by the Resident.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 5th June 1801.

The passing transactions of this state seem to be but of little interest or concern to other Powers, however inimical the disposition of the Peshwa or the great chieftains of the Mahratta Empire may be toward the Company and their allies. The weakness of their respective governments and their mutual jealousy will prevent any combination for the purpose of offensive hostilities and even any effectual concert for general defence.

The Peshwa's attention is at this time entirely occupied by the operations and designs of Serjajee Gautky, who is in the vicinity of Sattara, where he levies contributions on the country and threatens to release the Sahou Rajah and support his rights against the usurpation of Baajy Rao, who appears to be wholly unable to suppress the depredations of this turbulent Sirdar and endeavours by concessions to procure his retreat.

I am credibly informed that Chimna Appa is in correspondence not only with some of the principal members of this state but also with the neighbouring governments, for the deposal of his brother and his own advancement to the musnud.

The Peshwa has nominated a new Vakeel to the Court of Nagpore ; being aware of the machinations of his brothers and knowing the discontents which generally prevail against his character and administration, he is particularly intent on conciliating the attachment of Ragojee Bhonsla and Doulut Rao Sindia.

No. 413—An attempt on the part of the Peshwa to apprehend the person of Sarjajee Ghatge is reported to have been foiled.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 22nd June 1801.

The transactions of this Government which have come to my knowledge since my last address, are wholly of a domestic nature. The Peshwa's attention seems to be immediately engaged by the conduct and views of Amrit Rao and by the appearance of a renewal of commotions in his country, Jewaji Yaswant having assembled a considerable body of freebooters, with which he hopes to repeat his ravages with impunity during the season of the rains and when Sindia's army have proceeded to Hindoostan.

Two days ago Moonshy Gopaul Rao sent for Meer Fukiruddin, and communicated to him by the Peshwa's command, for my information, that His Highness had been compelled by the intrigues and disaffection of Emrut Rao to withhold from him the possession of the forts and a part of the Jaghir which he had assigned for his security and subsistence, when Nanna was last appointed to be minister. Gopaul Rao did not state any motive for the Peshwa's making a communication to me of a subject which appears to be of so little consequence to the British interests. The only purpose of it which I can conjecture is, that your Lordship may not be disposed to think favourably of the views or proceedings of Emrut Rao on a supposition of his being injured.

Serjajee Ghautky is still in this neighbourhood, but it is yet uncertain whether he will have an interview with the Peshwa; neither party seems to desire it, but both urged to it by Sindea who is said to be influenced by Yahdoe Rao Baschar*, who at the same time secretly encourages Serjajee to refuse, expecting that his disobedience will exasperate Sindeah and promote his own rise to favour and power.

The Peshwa has given to Serjajee possession of a jagheer in Bijapore of the annual revenue of five lacs of rupees, but he claims on His Highness's engagement a grant of land to double this amount, and it is to obtain the complete performance of this engagement that he delays his return to Sindeah, but he is not likely to succeed, since the withdrawing of Sindeah's battalion from his command, leaves him without means of compelling or intimidating the Peshwa to compliance.

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Poona, 27th June 1801.

S G, came to Poona on the 23rd and has had three or four interviews with the Peshwa, but always with the most ostensible precaution against treachery or surprize. Yesterday he made a visit to Balloo Khoonjer, who towards evening left him on pretence of adjusting the demand of some of the Peshwa's troops and soon after sent him word that he could not attend him, being put under the restraint of Dhurna by those troops. About the same time information was given to Serjajee that the Peshwa's cavalry were assembling in great numbers about Balloo Khoonjer's house, on this intelligence about twenty of Serjajee's confidential attendants rushed into the room in which he was, with a determination to defend his person. It is said that in this situation Balloo Khoonjer's people attempted to shut the door upon them, but were over-powered and prevented, and five or six persons whom Balloo Khoonjer had sent to assure Serjajee, that the cavalry had assembled for no other purpose than to demand their arrears of pay, were seized as hostages for Serjajee's safety, by which means he effected his retreat from Balloo Khoonjer's house to his own, but being told that the Peshwa had ordered a party to obstruct the passage of the bridge, he immediately set out to anticipate it and retired beyond both rivers without molestation.

If it was really the Peshwa's intention to apprehend the person of Serjajee, it is not easy to conceive how he could escape under the circumstances described, except by the connivance of Balloo Khoonjer. Be this as it may, Serjajee without loss of time despatched messengers to bring up his whole force which arrived this morning and is encamped within a mile of the city. Sindea's battalions which separated from him in order to return to Burhanpore, had halted on the north bank of the Beemrah, whence they have arrived here with the rest of his force

It is not probable that this affair will produce any other consequences than the Peshwa's appeasing Serjajee by pecuniary concessions to prevent his laying the country waste. The city is secured by the considerable force within it and the possession of the only bridge which leads to it.

No. 414—Sarjajee Ghatge's sudden departure to Koregaum is reported by the Resident.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 28th June 1801.

S. G. suddenly decamped this morning and proceeded to Corygowng at the distance of about 18 miles from Poona. This abrupt departure is said to be occasioned by a peremptory order from D. R. S. to repair to him without a moment's loss of time.

Serjajee has urgently requested Meer Fukiruddin to attend him, having, as he says, some important matters to communicate for my information. I have directed Fukiruddin to proceed to Corygowng immediately, although I have little reliance on the sincerity or interest of any communications which Serjajee may make to him.

No. 415—This is an important and detailed communication by the Resident to the Governor General reporting the arrest of Dada Gadre, one of Nana Fadnis' relatives, by Bajirao for complicity in a plot to depose the Peshwa. Fakruddin and his brother Nizam-uddin at Hyderabad were both implicated in the plot. The impartiality and judicious attitude and an open mind exhibited by Col. Palmer are indeed commendable. The paper also proves that serious measures were contemplated by some leaders to dethrone Bajirao and set up a better man to hold the office of the Peshwa.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 18th July 1801.

The Peshwa's departure for Kopergowng has been delayed by an incident which is unexpectedly the cause of much uneasiness to me, and in which I am likely to find it difficult to act with a due regard to justice and propriety.

About ten days ago the Peshwa arrested Dada Gujerah, an old dependant of Nana Furnavees, and has to this time detained him a prisoner in the Palace. Three days ago, Moonshy Gopal Rao desired to have a private interview with me, to which I immediately consented, when he disclosed to me that Dada Gujerah had been arrested in consequence of information given to the Peshwa by Babba Khalia, the Vakeel of Pursaram Bhow's son, that he had engaged at the instance of this vakeel, in the name of his master, in a conspiracy to depose Baajy Rao and place Chimna Appa on the Musnud, and that Meer Fikiruddin my Moonshy was a party in this conspiracy and had promised to promote it at the Court of Hyderabad by the agency of his brother*, who is an officer of some distinction in the service of His Highness the Nizam.

Gopal Rao then proceeded to read and explain to me from papers, written in the Mahratta language, the declarations of Dada Gujerah and Babba Khalia, together with some documents written by a Karkoon of the former who has absconded, detailing the plan and circumstances leading to it, in all of which Fikiruddin is implicated or rather directly charged with counsel and participation.

Although the testimonies which Gopal Rao thus produced appeared to me to contain much improbability and some inconsistencies, I made little remark at the time, except on the plan itself, which, I observed, was of a nature which Fikiruddin so well knows to be impracticable, that I could not easily believe a man of his understanding would engage in it. I promised, however, without hesitation that Fikiruddin should give the Peshwa satisfaction and desired Moonshy Gopal Rao to assure him that no intrigue or plot against his person or authority, had ever received the least countenance or encouragement from me, nor would ever be sanctioned by your Lordship, unless rendered justifiable by aggression on his part.

It may be proper in this place to observe to your Lordship that Babba Khalia the informer avows that the plot in which he engaged Dada Gujerah, was a mere contrivance of his own to ensnare and betray Dada Gujerah, and was wholly unknown to his principals and Chimna Appa.

I have examined Meer Fikiruddin on the charges alleged against him. He solemnly denies any participation in the project either by counsel or agency and offers to exculpate himself to the Peshwa by oath and he desires to be confronted with his accusers before His Highness, but is unwilling to submit to an examination by the Peshwa's servant as proposed by Gopal Rao, not only because he considers it as disgraceful, but also because he ascribes the accusation to the enmity of the Peshwa's most confidential

* Saiyad Nizam-uddin. They were four brothers, Fikiruddin, Nizamuddin, Nasiruddin and Kamaluddin, sons of Nuruddin Hussein Khan, Sir Charles Malet & Munshy

ministers, Shedasheo Munkaiser and Balloo Khoonjer. I do not yet know whether the mode by which Fukiruddin proposes to refute the charge brought against him, will be accepted.

The revolution intended by this conspiracy was to be effected (as stated to me by Gopal Rao) by Nizam Newauz Jung's* negotiating the support of the Nawaub, and obtaining from His Highness the appointment of vakeel to this Court, in which character he was to repair to Poona with 5,000 horse, where he would be joined by several discontented Sirdars with their respective troops, when the Peshwa was to be invited to an entertainment at Dada Gujerah's house and there to be seized and imprisoned in some fort. His Highness the Nizam was also to be solicited to obtain the aid of two battalions of the Company's troops. When the plan should be executed, His Highness was to receive a recompense in transfer of territory of the annual value of thirty lacs and twenty lacs of the claims of this state to be remitted. Dada Gujerah and Meer Fukiruddin were to be his ministers and Ramchunder Pursaram to be the commander of the forces of this State.

Gopal Rao further informed me that this plot has been in agitation for four or five months, has been submitted to Azim-ul-Omrah, and has received his approbation.

The above is in substance all that I can recollect of very long details, both in writing and conversation. I have no bias on my mind and no wish on the subject but to discover the truth and give the Peshwa that satisfaction to which he may be entitled. In the meantime I perceive the necessity of dismissing Fukiruddin from my service, whether the charge brought against him be proved or not, unless it should be refuted to the Peshwa's entire conviction and his distrust totally removed.

Of the conspiracy thus brought forward, I gave your Lordship intimation in my address of the 8th May last. The vague and general information which I then received, was from Meer Fukiruddin, who had obtained it from Dada Gujerah. Subsequent to that information Fukiruddin mentioned to me that Nizam Newauz Jung has advised him of an agent coming to him from the sons of Pursaram Bhow with some proposals of which he would inform him hereafter, but to this day has not repeated the subject, from which Fukiruddin concluded that his brother had not thought it worth attention.

If a mere knowledge of the intrigue to this extent only is criminal towards the Peshwa, I am as culpable as Meer Fukiruddin. But I do not conceive that it is my province to inform this Government of plots against it, of which I may be casually apprized, nor that I can consistently with the duty of my station, dispense with receiving information which is offered to me and which may eventually affect the interests of the British Government.

* Brother of Fakruddin.

And certainly Baajy Rao who has shewn so little solicitude to remove the suspicious appearances of his own direct treacherous enmity to the Company, cannot expect from its Government communications of designs against him in which it has no participation.

The Peshwa, however, will not be less offended and irritated by his conviction of Meer Fikiruddin having merely received information of this design than if he had taken an active part in it. And though I know that I not only have a right, but that it is my duty as a public minister to protect my servants until their conduct is proved to be unjustifiable, I will waive these considerations rather than expose the public business to interruption, or afford the Peshwa a pretext for asserting that I countenance intrigue against his person and government.

It can easily be ascertained by Major Kirkpatrick whether this conspiracy has been imparted to Azim-ul-Omrah by Nizam Newauz Jung and whether in the discussion of it, there is any appearance of Fikiruddin's having interested himself in the event

I cannot pretend to have stated the circumstances of this transaction very accurately. But Gopal Rao has promised me copies of the papers of evidence from which I will correct any mistakes which I may have now committed and supply any deficiency of information, or transmit the whole to your Lordship, if after the examination proposed, the Peshwa should not be satisfied of the innocence of Fikiruddin or I be convinced of his guilt

As I learn that the intercourse between Sindia's camp and Hindustan is interrupted by Eswunt Rao Holkar, it may be proper to inform your Lordship of the advices which I have lately received of some transactions of the contending armies and of which, I supposed, you would have received more direct intelligence from Colonel Collins. Sindia seems to have exposed a considerable part of his army to be cut off in detail by detaching small bodies of it to the northward of the Nurbuddah. Colonel Hessian with four battalions, who first advanced for the relief of Ogeine, was surrounded by a much superior force of the enemy, but was fortunate enough to gain the protection of a fort, in which situation he was invested but not attacked. Two battalions and six companies were detached to reinforce him. These were attacked on their march and totally destroyed; of five European Officers attached to these corps one only escaped with life. After this success Eswunt Rao Holkar, supported by Monsieur Dudrenec, attacked Sindia's artillery, but was repulsed after a very long and severe action and in which he seems to have failed only from the circumstance of some Sirdar of distinction being killed, as his troops retreated at the moment that the fall of this person from an elephant was perceived. Eswunt Rao seems to have renewed the attack though faintly the next day. Dewajee Gokla (Gauli?) a principal commander, a European

Officer and about 300 men on the side of Sindia fell in the first action which took place sixteen days ago.

Sindia in person was, by these advices, on the south bank of the Nurbuddah, expediting the passage of the remainder of his army, in which he had received considerable assistance from the Rajah of Berar in a supply of boats.

Serjajee Gautky has passed the Godavery on his march to rejoin Sindia.

The Vakeel so long since appointed by this Court to that of Naugpore is still at Poona.

No. 416—The Hyderabad Resident encloses a report of a conversation with the Nizam's Minister on the subject among others of Fakruddin's and his brother Nizamuddin's complicity in the plot to depose the Peshwa Bajirao, against whom the alliance of the British and the Nizam was now pressing heavily.

FROM—J. A. KIRKPATRICK,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Hyderabad, 3rd August 1801.

I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's notice translation of my Moonshy's report of his conference with Rajah Ragotim Rao and the Minister at his visit of the 1st instant.

I have little if anything to offer in the way of remark on this enclosure.

Until I receive Major Munro's statement of the collections unduly made by His Highness's aumils in the ceded countries, or rather, as I suspect it will turn out, of their unauthorized exactions from the inhabitants, I can go no further than I have already done on this point, by stating our claim for reimbursement and which is sufficiently admitted by Azim-ul-Omrah with the proviso of the premises being fully established.

Our claim to subsidy, on account of the old subsidiary force up to the period of complete occupation of the ceded countries and of the commencement of revenue collections therein (which will, I incline to think, prove one and the same) being on every ground whatever incontrovertible, I have little doubt of obliging the Minister to yield this point; though under existing circumstances not perhaps with the best grace—even were it not blended, as it is, with a question, on which I shall be agreeably disappointed, in not finding him utterly impracticable.

P.S.—I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's notice copy of my letter of this date to the Resident at Poonah.

No. 416A.

Translation of Moonshy Uzeez Oollah's report of his conference with Auzim-qol-Omrah on the 1st of August 1801.

On my arrival at the Minister's house I was informed that he had proceeded to the Presence. It growing late, I sent through the Arz Beggee to know when his return might be expected, when Azimool Omrah sent Rajah Ragotim Rao to me, with a verbal message implying, that as his stay at the Presence would be that day prolonged, whatever I had to say, I should communicate to Ragotim Rao. Accordingly having taken my seat with the Rajah, I began the discourse by saying that in consequence of what the Minister had said with respect to your (Major K's) demand of reimbursement for undue collections made by His Highness's talookdars in the Ceded Districts, you had written to Major Munro for precise and authentic information on this point and would readily be governed by what Major Munro should say in reply. That there then remained pecuniary demands on account of the old and new subsidiary force, which you (Major K.) requested might be finally adjusted, it being a fact that Major Munro had entered on no collections till the month of January. In answer to this Rajah Ragotim Rao said, that he was at a loss to conceive how such could be the case, as the receipts in his possession implied the country being delivered over at a much earlier period. I replied that partial possession of the country was one thing, and commencement of collections, or what amounted to the same thing, entire occupation, another, and that according to the treaty we were entitled to subsidy on account of the old and new subsidiary force until complete occupation. Rajah Ragotim Rao protested with much warmth against the above position, observing that our notions were so opposite, he was at a loss to know how we should ever agree—I claiming pay on account of the additional force, though never furnished, whilst His Highness's ministers on the other hand insisted that His Highness was in justice entitled to the pay of such force from the time of complete possession being taken of the Ceded Countries, until it should actually join. I replied to this, that the basis of our discussion rested on the treaty, by which it, of course, must be determined, that the additional force was levied in consequence of the treaty and chargeable to His Highness from the date thereof. Rajah Ragotim Rao hereupon asked me where the force in question was and why not forthcoming? To which I answered that I had before informed him at a late visit, that on account of disturbances in the Ceded Districts, it had, as provided for by treaty, been detained there. The Rajah here repeated to me the same question put to me by the Minister at a former visit, namely, why, if such disturbances existed, regular application had not been made for the employment of the additional force; a question which I told him, it was

unnecessary to reply to a second time ; and took this opportunity of hinting to Ragotim Rao (agreeably to your directions) that he was no doubt a well-wisher to both Governments and that through the bounty of the Governor General, he might consider himself as standing, in a certain degree, in the same relation with the Company's Government as with that of His Highness ; and that it therefore behoved him to prove his attachment to both, by avoiding in transactions which equally concerned both states, doing anything which might call his good name in question or occasion displeasure, and therefore earnestly recommended him to exert his influence with the Minister to bring the present discussions to an early issue in the mode here pointed out.

The above having passed, the Minister made his appearance when I observed to him that I had imparted to Rajah Ragotim Rao certain matters which you (Major Kirkpatrick) were hopeful His Excellency would see the expediency of speedily adjusting ; and as it was growing late, was about to take my leave, when Azimool Omrah, turning to Ragotim Rao, desired him to relate to me the circumstances of Fukeeruddin's affairs, as given in Anund Rao's late letter from Poonah. Ragotim Rao accordingly informed me that Colonel Palmer had had an audience of the Peshwa, at which nothing would appear to have been proved against his Moonshy ; that Sudasheo Munkaiser had called three times on Anund Rao by the Peshwa's orders, that at his first visit he signified to him, that Moonshy Fukhroodeen having been concerned in a conspiracy against the Peshwa, he was on no account to visit either him or Colonel Palmer ; that Anund Rao replied to this by saying, that the Nizam's and the Company's Government being one and the same, he could not think of complying with so unreasonable a requisition ; that on the following day Sudasheo Munkaiser came and intimated to him that he might go to Colonel Palmer's, but to have no intercourse with Fukhroodeen ; and that the day after that he again called on him and informed him, that Colonel Palmer had been with the Peshwa when Fukhroodeen's crime had been fully established, and in consequence thereof Colonel Palmer had dismissed him his service, an example which it behoved His Highness the Nizam to follow, in the instance of his brother, by dismissing him also his service ; that Anund Rao's answer to this was, that as far as he could learn, nothing at all had been proved against Colonel Palmer's Moonshy ; but that granting the contrary to be the case, why should his brother, against whom nothing had certainly been proved, be dismissed the service of His Highness ? Here Ragotim Rao finished his relation, when Azimool Omrah observed, that this was a most extraordinary proceeding on the part of Baajy Rao and his ministers, who probably meant it as a retaliation for the affair of Kader Hoossein, wishing perhaps to have it understood thereby, that other powers were as liable to intrigue or be implicated in intrigues as themselves. I replied, that I had heard that in confirmation of the truth of these charges, a paper of concurrence in the plot against the Peshwa had been produced with his (Azimool Omra's)

signature thereto. Azimool Omrah in answer to this, said that his signature was not of that kind as to be easily mistaken, adding that he was not reduced to such straits as to have recourse to such practices against the Peshwa, as he was charged with ; and concluded by protesting, in the most solemn manner, that he had not the smallest knowledge of the business until he received Nizam Nuwauz Jung's Arzee.

The above having passed, I arose and withdrew

No. 417—The Minister of Hyderabad disavowed any share on his part in the conspiracy for deposing Bajirao. The same is reported to the Resident of Poona.

FROM—J. A. KIRKPATRICK,
TO—COLONEL Wm. PALMER.

Hyderabad, 3rd August 1801.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 18th and 23rd and to enclose for your information copy of my address of the 28th ultimo to His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General, in which you will find an entire disavowal on the part of Azimool Omrah of any share or knowledge, in the plot against the Paishwah in which his name has been implicated.

No. 418—Palmer reports his interview with the Peshwa, at which the latter expressed his satisfaction at the dismissal of Fakruddin for suspected complicity in a plot to depose him. The high tone of an ambassador's duty and impartiality adopted by the Resident is in severe contrast with the open deceit and duplicity practised daily by Indian Courts. Baba Kale mentioned in the report is an agent of the Patwardhans.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 1st August 1801.

The Peshwa having requested to see me on the 29th ultimo, I waited upon him at one of his gardens and after sitting some time in public Durbar, retired with him to a private apartment, accompanied by my assistant. He was attended by no other person but Chimna Appa and Moonshy Gopal Rao.

His Highness began the conversation by expressing his acknowledgments for my ready compliance with his wish to remove Fukeeruddin, which he said, he considered as an incontestable proof of my regard to his peace of mind and a confirmation of the assurances which I had invariably given him, of a friendly concern for the stability and prosperity of his Government. That he should now leave Poona in perfect confidence, he should experience the great satisfaction in having my company and if he dispensed with it for the present, it was solely in consideration of my personal convenience at this season, but he earnestly desired that I should repair to his camp at the expiration of the rains. He concluded with professions of a sincere disposition to maintain the most amicable relations and to promote a constant interchange of good offices with the British Government.

In answer to this discourse, I observed that although I was by no means convinced of Fukeeruddin's having taken any concern in the conspiracy of Babba Khalia and Dada Gujarah, yet as His Highness seemed to be thoroughly impressed with the conviction of his having been engaged in an intrigue, so injurious to his person and authority and so unjustifiable and unwarrantable in relation to the employment which he held under me, I could not hesitate, either with attention to His Highness's satisfaction, to the maintenance of confidential public intercourse and good understanding or to the support of my own character for fair and honourable proceeding, to dismiss him from my service. But I was persuaded that the accusation brought against him would soon appear to be false.

I assured the Peshwa that the rainy season would have been no obstacle to my proceeding with him, if he had not intimated a wish to decline my attendance. And I made a suitable return to the conciliatory sentiments which he expressed towards the British Government.

Having at length obtained from Moonshy Gopal Rao copies of the evidence which he read to me at his preferring the charge of Meer Fukiruddin, I have translated it as literally as possible, and have the honor to enclose it that your Lordship may have all the information on the subject, of which I am possessed. I am doubtful whether it is of importance sufficient to excuse the minute detail of it which I have obtruded upon your attention, but I think it incumbent on me to obviate any attempts which may be made, to ascribe to the sanction of the British Government or to the countenance of its Resident, any practices against the Peshwa in any degree incompatible with good faith, with the nature of subsisting relations between the two states and with the candour and rectitude so essential to confidence and harmony in the public intercourse of nations.

The Peshwa had fixed on this day for his departure, but he has postponed it on the pretext of its being an unauspicious day, a circumstance which he

probably would have ascertained before he determined. But I understand that the Shastrees have persuaded him that whoever sets out on a journey at this time will never return. Their object in this prediction is to detain him until the day of the annual distribution of alms which, they expect, will be more liberal from his own hands than if dispensed by his servants.

Neither of the Vakeels appointed to the Courts of Hyderabad and Nagpore has yet proceeded on his mission, nor has the minister of the Rajah of Berar, so long reported to be on his way to Poona, yet made his appearance.

No. 419—Sadashiv Raghunath alias Dada Cadre gave the following deposition describing the nature of the secret plan to remove Bajirao and place Chimna Appa on the Musnud, in which Fakiruddin was implicated.

Poona, 1st August 1801.

I, Shedashco Ragoonaut Gujerah, having received the command of the Peshwa to declare whether I have lately been engaged in any consultations or intrigue and to state the circumstances in writing, do now confess that in the month of Shawal or Falgun, Baba Khalia came to me and enquired whether he could establish such an intercourse and confidence between the sons of Pursaram Bhow and Fukiruddin, as subsisted between the latter and me. The districts of Sanoor (said Baba Khalia) is to be resumed, can you obtain a loan from Fukiruddin to prevent this resumption? I answered, that such a loan could not be obtained. But I would procure the protection of Meer Fukiruddin to the house of Pursaram Bhow. Baba Khalia then said that a discussion of the affairs of Chimnajee was then going on between him and Hiroujee Pahtun Ghur (Hiroj Patankar?), what do you advise? I speak, says Baba Khalia, on the part of Serjajee Gautky, but as he is obliged to proceed to Koulapore, I wish you to procure me a meeting with Fukiruddin at your house when I will confer with him on these subjects. I then sent an account of this conversation to Fukiruddin by Moro Pundit, to which Fukiruddin answered, he would meet Baba Khalia as proposed, after some days. Fukiruddin came to my house, when a conversation between him and me took place on this subject as above related. I then sent for Baba Khalia and when he arrived, introduced him to Fukiruddin to whom he said, that the concerns of Chimnajee were in agitation and if he would engage in them, that Prince would conform to his advice and give him his ring in pledge of his faith, but in this affair Fukiruddin must have a regard to the interests of Pursaram Bhow's house. Fukiruddin then enquired of Baba Khalia, whether he had communicated this plan to Serjajee Gautky or not. Baba Khalia said that he had

imparted it to Serjajee Gautky with earnestness, who answered that he would accomplish the business after he returned from Koulapore, in consequence of which he (Baba Khalia) had stationed Hiroujee Pahtun Ghur with Serjajee Gautky. When the latter returns, it will be known what will be done. Fukiruddin observed, that what Baba Khalia had now told him, he had learned from Serjajee Gautky. It was therefore expedient that Baba Khalia should endeavour to accelerate the return of Serjajee Gautky and he (Fukiruddin) would do the same and, in effect, both these persons afterwards laboured to this effect. Having thus brought Baba Khalia and Fukiruddin to an acquaintance, made them engage to act with fidelity towards each other, then Fukiruddin advised Baba Khalia to obtain from Chimna Appa proper assurances of his countenancing this project, and that in the period of two months the affairs might be discussed between him and Baba Khalia by the agency of Moro Pundit. In consequence of this arrangement, Moro Pundit from time to time enquired of Baba Khalia when Serjajee Gautky would return and brought the answers to Fukiruddin and to me. After this, on the 24th Zelhyij at night Moro Pundit came to me from Fukiruddin and told me that the latter had been saying to him, that it was necessary the sons of Pursaram Bhow should bring this business to a conclusion, but they must be cautious not to injure their reputation. They must therefore give a Jaghire of 30 lacs of rupees to the Nazim and remit to His Highness 25 lacs of rupees due from him to this Sirkar, and His Highness in return engage in the object with a powerful army. Let union and harmony prevail and a sufficient force be sent and the Musnud be settled. If any disagreement should happen, the Company will interpose to remove it. A treaty to this effect must be prepared to the Nazim from hence, who will accede to it. Do you acquaint Dada Gujerah with this advice, that I may receive the proper sanction to it and transmit it to my brother. On receiving this message, I debated the purport of it with Moro Pundit and finding the advice salutary, Moro Pundit communicated it to Babba Khalia, who approved it. Another day, Fukiruddin and Babba Khalia came to my house and discussed the affair again, after which an engagement was drawn up by Moro Pundit, signed by Babba Khalia and delivered to Fukiruddin, who took it away. Both Fukiruddin and myself then desired Babba Khalia to procure the authority of Chimna Appa, which he promised. Fukiruddin wrote an account of these proceedings to his brother, who in answer required, that two English battalions should be obtained for the service in view and two forts to be put into possession of the Nazim. Babba Khalia and myself consented to admit two English battalions, but refused the forts. In the meantime an engagement from the Nazim was received; and as it had been before agreed that I and Dajibah, Pursaram Bhow's youngest son (who was then at Poona) should sign an engagement, this was again determined, but as Dajibah was on the point of removing,

I asked Babba Khalia what was to be done in this matter, to which he answered, that although Dajibah was about to depart, he would leave power with him (Babba Khalia) to conclude whatever was necessary. And Moro Pundit then wrote a draft of a letter to this effect to be signed by Dajibah. About this time the latter left Poona, without signing the letter. I enquired of Babba Khalia why this had not been done, who only made an idle excuse, upon which I was angry with Moro Pundit and tore the draft. Moro Pundit afterwards went to Babba Khalia on this subject who endeavoured to assure him by promises of obtaining the sanctions required. On this I observed, that I had nothing further to do with the business. I would die. Notwithstanding this disgust, Moro Pundit continued to entreat me and said, that Babba Khalia would procure the signature of Ramchunder Pursaram and recommended that I should make a draft of a letter for this purpose. I answered, this was not advisable while this was debating. Moro Pundit told me that a memorandum of the stipulations for a treaty was received by Fukiruddin from his brother, to which I answered, that without proper authority from Chimna Appa and Ramchunder Pursaram, I would not receive the memorandum, upon which Babba Khalia promised to obtain both. But the person who was to have obtained the former was gone with Pahtunkur. It was then proposed to desire Pahtunkur to return; and to request Ramchunder Pursaram to repair to Poona and that Babba Khalia should prepare the Sirdars to engage in the revolution, as I would not undertake this point. Moro Pundit considered of the means by which it might be effected. Another time Moro Pundit informed me that a paper of engagements was come from Hyderabad which he would translate and shew to me. I told him I would not look at it without authority from Chimna Appa and Ramchunder Pursaram. We had much dispute on the subject, at length Moro Pundit prepared a draft for the signature of Ramchunder Pursaram and carried it to Babba Khalia. Fukiruddin had observed to me that nothing would be done in this project by Serjajee Gautky. All that I have done in this affair is by Fukiruddin's persuasion. I have thus related all the circumstances which I know. I know nothing further. If it shall be discovered that I have concealed anything, I am guilty. Whatever is the Peshwa's pleasure, he will command. This declaration is taken on the 26th suffer 1215 Hegira.

A true translation,

(Signed) Wm Palmer.
Resident.

No. 420.

DECLARATION of Ramchunder Serridur (commonly called Babba Khalia) Vakeel of Ramchunder Pursaram Patwardhan at Poona.

Poona, 1st August 1801.

What I have to declare is this : It was demanded (by the Paishwa) what were the objects of those consultations in which I had been engaged. I answered, they were to confine Your Highness and place Chimna Appa on the Musnud—this was the first object and if this could not be effected, that both should be imprisoned ; otherwise, whatever may happen, a third person might be selected for the Musnud, my principal to be Commander of the forces and Fukiruddin and Dada Gujerah to be the Dewans. These determinations were the result of the consultations. I enquired one day (of Dada Gujerah) what he thought of changing the name of Chimna Appa to Chimna Ragoonath. Dada Gujerah answered, that this would not be proper and Nana and Pursaram now in heaven would be offended. Let a son be adopted to Nana and Narro Pundit Chuckerdeo, his associate, be liberated ; such was the advice of Dada and I approved it. Moro Pundit observed that Ragotim Rhow purposed coming to Poona with 5,000 horse, when the Paishwa should be invited to an entertainment and seized ; otherwise the business might be effected at the palace, but that, we must be ready with our force also. I answered, that we were ready ; whenever the signal should be given, we would execute the plan. A week after this conversation, Moro Pundit told me that Ragotim Rhow would not come here, but the brother of Fukiruddin in his room. I observed, that this was a project not to be accomplished by representatives. He replied, we shall perform whatever is proper ; the execution will not be entrusted to Vakeels. I declared my satisfaction with this assurance. In the course of our conversations, Dada Gujerah said to me that whenever this great undertaking should be completed, Balloo Khoonjer must be put to death. The rest of that party may be confined and treated in the manner that Succaram Bapoo was treated. I observed this advice was very proper and necessary to success ; adding, that I approved all which Dada Gujerah and Moro Pundit had recommended. As I was commanded to state the particulars of these transaction in writing, I have obeyed ; otherwise the consequences might have been bad to me. Of these circumstances we three persons are witnesses, what has passed I have related. Hereafter, whatever may be your pleasure, you will execute. Another day I asked if such an enterprize could be conducted by the troops of vakeels and those of my principals, to which Dada Gujerah answered, that Mahdajee Goorpoora, Neelkunt Rhow Purboo and four or five Paugah Sirdars were

in our interests, though it was not yet time to entrust them with the design. This may be deferred until a day before the execution they are on the spot. One or two of them may be confided in, to act at an earlier period. But do you take care to be prepared I replied, that we should be ready. Another time Dada Gujerah enquired of me whether Chimna Appa was engaged in the plan. As I was apprehensive that if answered in the negative, Dada Gujerah would recede, I said, that Chimna Appa was engaged. Dada Gujerah then gave some advice. Thus I have related what has passed. Some time after this, I gave it as my opinion that the project was impracticable. Dada Gujerah desired me not to be apprehensive, that at a certain place on which he would fix for the intended entertainment to which he would invite the Paishwa and his ministers, the troops of the Nabob and my principals being assembled, the whole party would be secured, and everything completed. I answered that it was well. Thus I approved of all that Dada Gujerah proposed. But I gave no information thereof to my constituents. Deposition taken 29th Suffur 1217.

No. 420A.

SECOND DECLARATION of Babba Khalia

It is required by the Sircar what consultations have passed between Dada Gujerah and me and that I should relate it with sincerity. I therefore declare, that when the Sursoubah of the Carnatic was bestowed by the Sircar on Serjajee Gautky, the talook of Sanoor belonging to my principals was included therein. I therefore represented to Balloo Khoonjer that this talook given as an equivalent for a debt, being transferred to Gautky, it was but just that some compensation should be made. Balloo Khoonjer acknowledged that this was reasonable, but the Sircar being in want of money, if my constituents would advance ten lacs of rupees, the Sursoubah of the Carnatic should be granted to them and their full demands be hereafter liquidated. In consequence of this answer, I attempted to raise the sum required by applications to some bankers with whom I had former dealings, but they observed, that they were already in advance for my principals; they would wait a year or two for payment, but had no more money to lend. Seeing that I was not likely to succeed with the bankers, I thought of trying other means, when it occurred to me that sometime ago, Ballajee Pundit Seyheiser Boohda had mentioned to me, that great friendship had subsisted between Burre Saheb (Fukiruddin) and Dada Gujerah. I therefore in the month of Maug or Faugun, visited Dada Gujerah and said to him, that as friendship and esteem subsisted between him and Fukiruddin, who was the English Vakeel, I came to solicit his influence

with his friend to obtain from the English a loan of ten lacs of rupees, which would be the means of retaining the talook of Sanoor in the possession of my employers. Dada Gujerah said, that he would consider the subject and give me an answer, at the same time observing that he had a great deal to say to me, but was doubtful of my fidelity. I asked, on what account he required my fidelity. If he had confidence in me, he might disclose what he wished to say, otherwise he might be silent. He then said that he relied upon me. Upon which, I at that time retired. After this I waited on Balloo Khoonjir and informed him that I purposed to borrow money of the English, in order to give it to him. He observed that I was acting improperly in desiring to obtain money from the English, that although the Sircar was in want of money, it would not apply to the English for a loan and, of course, the Paishwa would be displeased if he should raise the money required for the Sircar by that means. This intimation Balloo Khoonjir gave me in the way of friendship. And about the same time, Moonshy Gopal Rao spoke to me to the same effect. The opinion of these ministers induced me to be silent on the subject. But I repaired to Dada Gujerah to learn whether the loan could be thus obtained. He answered that the English did not lend money. I was then going away, but Dada Gujerah said, to-day your Sursoubah is taken away, to-morrow your Jaghere will be sequestered, what do you intend to do? Narro Pundit Chuckerdeo has been ruined; if you are disposed to deliberate on these subjects I will prepare them for your consideration. I then asked him what he would advise. He replied, that which Pursaram Bhow formerly effected, should now be repeated and Baajy Rao be set aside. I observed that the family of Pursaram Bhow was still suffering the consequence of the Bhow's conduct, and would make no more attempts. His sons long ago confessed to the Paishwa that they were worthy of punishment for the offences of their father and threw themselves on His Highness's mercy and favour, who graciously answered, that the person who had offended him being no more, he had no resentment against his children and they might enjoy their possessions undisturbed. After such generosity, how can they act by such advice as you have given. Dada Gujerah answered, that when Pursaram Bhow effected the revolution here, he had no foreign support, and therefore could not maintain his situation. If you will come into my advice, I will arrange the business properly; if you reject, you will be oppressed. We are one, I speak in affection. On which I replied, Dada, you and I are relations, whatever you advise is best. I am ready to adopt it. At my going away, he asked if I had ever met with Fukiruddin. I answered in the negative. He then said that he would introduce us, to which I consented. To this period no third person was present at our conversations. After some days had intervened, Dada Gujerah sent for me. I repaired to him and went to the upper apartments from the back part of the house and there I met with Fukiruddin, the substance of whose discourse was, that the consultations which had passed were

unknown to the Company's Government. He should adjust the objects of them with Mosheerul-Mulk. During this discourse, Moro Pundit came in. After this, I attended Dada Gujerah but seldom, receiving three or four summons before I complied with them. In the meantime Moro Pundit came to my house and renewed the conversations which had passed, and from this period I gave them assurances and encouragement. Whatever they required, I consented to it. Another day meeting Fukiruddin at Dada Gujerah's, who observed that Dada Gujerah had satisfied me and then enquired if we should act as he advised, that we were brave and our swords victorious. I answered, that we were of one mind with him and Dada Gujerah, and that he should entertain no doubts of our conduct. Having thus satisfied him, he began to speak of a treaty. I said that I was not conversant in making treaties. Upon which Dada Gujerah said, that he was acquainted with former treaties and had been concerned in effecting that of Mahr; with this content yourself. I remarked, that to depose Baajy Rao and raise Chimna Appa to the Musnud was no easy matter, but whatever you propose, I agree to it. Upon this I went away and left Fukiruddin with Dada Gujerah. From that day to this, I have not seen Fukiruddin. Whatever was consulted on thereafter between the parties was by the channel of Moro Pundit and communicated to me from time to time at the house of Dada Gujerah. I made no remarks or requisitions on their proposals, simply approving what they did. One day Dada Gujerah drew up some stipulations, to which he desired I would subscribe; Had I refused, he would have been suspicious of me, yet I endeavoured to avoid it, by asking what security or confidence my signature could give. He said, it was necessary for Fukiruddin's satisfaction, but would not be transmitted to any Durbar. Moro Pundit (continued Dada Gujerah) is my Karkoon and you are the Karkoon of Ramchunder Appa. Let my agent draw up the articles and do you execute the engagement. I accordingly subscribed the memorandum. After this, I learned from Moro Pundit every two or three days the progress of the conspiracy and that the plan was adjusted at the Nabob's Durbar. Afterwards Moro Pundit told me, that the treaty was to be transmitted from hence to Mosheerul-Mulk and that the signatures of Ramchunder Appa and Dada Gujerah to it were required. To this I answered, that Appa was at a great distance, but if it was expedient I would sign the treaty. Dada Gujerah answered, of what use is your signature. If Appa is at a distance, his brother Dajibah is at Poona, obtain a letter from him to Mosheerul-Mulk. In this case, there will be no occasion for a letter from Appa. I answered it was well, I would obtain a letter from Dajibah. In this manner I temporized for the space of a month. Dada Gujerah prepared a draft, but I continued to evade

its being presented to Dajibah, to whom, nor to Appa, did I make any communication respecting it and told Dada Gujerah, that I delayed to present the draft that our scheme might not be exposed to discovery. By this means I satisfied him. About this time, Dajibah obtained leave and departed from Poona, on which Dada Gujerah was very much offended with me and said, that no dependence was to be placed in me, that for a month passed I had promised to obtain a letter from Dajibah, who had now left Poona without signing it. What was henceforth to be done? I endeavoured to pacify him and said, that this disappointment had happened through my neglect, but henceforth, I would punctually observe my promise. Two or three days after this, Dada Gujerah informed me, that the plan having been arranged and approved by Mosheerul-Mulk, was returned from Hyderabad; it was therefore now necessary, that the treaty prepared here, should be executed and transmitted to that minister and asked what I had determined. To which I answered, that I would act according to his advice. Upon this he said, that he would prepare drafts of letters to Mosheerul-Mulk, from himself and Ramchunder Appa, to which I must procure his signature and then the treaty would be executed. I answered, it was well. Soon after Dada Gujerah sent the drafts to me, it occurred to me that I should take copies of these drafts, and returning the originals to Moro Pundit, inform my constituents of the circumstance. Thus Your Highness's fortune is conspicuous and triumphant. God knows how otherwise this conspiracy could have been revealed to you. Dada Gujerah is imprisoned and has disclosed the intrigue. And your commands have been laid on me to relate what I know of it. In obedience to those commands I have detailed every circumstance with which I am acquainted. One day, that I enquired of Dada Gujerah how this plot was to be executed, since a body of 5,000 guards and a considerable force of cavalry were in constant attendance on the Paishwa's person, he answered, that the guards never received a Dahm of pay and the condition of the Paugah's troops was well understood, that the fortress of Loghur was at his disposal, whence he could draw a thousand Arabs whenever he pleased. A Karkoon from Loghur had been with him on this subject and had returned satisfied. I said all this was well. To what length shall I extend this narration? In short, I am guilty, inasmuch as I have heard such conversations and designs. They are now known to Your Highness. Whatever be your pleasure, command. I am culpable. Written on the 29th Suffur 1217 Hegira.

(A true translation)

Poona, 1st August 1801.

(Signed) WILLIAM PALMER,

Resident.

No. 421.

Copy of a draft of a letter from Ramchunder Pursaram Putwardhum to Azimul-Omrah, in the handwriting of Moro Pundit, a Karkhoon in the service of Dada Gujerah.

Poona, 1st August 1801.

Sereemunt Chimnaje Rao Mahdoo, in contemplation of placing himself on the Musnud, has opened a negotiation with me, on which account I have in concert with Dada Gujerah settled a plan of correspondence with Your Excellency, through the agency of Nizam Newauz Jung, who will discuss this affair with you. Wherefore it is settled with him that a treaty with Your Excellency and me and by your mediation with the Company, shall be concluded. As my signature may be thought requisite to the conditions of such treaty, I therefore write to you that as I am not at Poona, Ramchunder Sirridhur, Babba Khalia, my Vakeel at the Paishwa's Durbar, has full powers on my part and has adjusted a plan with Dada Gujerah, to which he will subscribe, when this is done, Your Excellency will furnish assistance, and having placed Chimnaje on the Musnud, will arrange the affairs of government. When these objects shall be accomplished, I will procure the engagements of Chimnaje. In the meantime, let not my absence from Poona be a reason of delay. When I procure the confirmation of Chimnaje to the conditions stipulated, you will return the engagements subscribed by Babba Khalia and Dada Gujerah.

No. 422—The Resident reports the Peshwa to be in great alarm on account of his brother Amrutrao's designs for deposing him.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 9th August 1801.

Since my last address, I have been informed that the Peshwa has at this time imbibed strong suspicions of the designs of his adoptive brother Emrut Rao to subvert his authority. Whether these suspicions are founded on particular intelligence or are excited only by the renewal of the insurrection of the Bawun Paugah headed by Jewajee Eswunt, who was formerly a dependant of the Rao, I do not learn. But the Peshwa, it is said, has determined on attempting by every means which he can devise, to secure the person of his brother.

It is perhaps in consequence of this alarm that Shedasheo Munkaiser set out yesterday morning rather suddenly on his deputation to Hyderabad. The Peshwa himself has determined to remain here until the Dukshna, or annual distribution of alms, but has placed relays of bearers and horses on the road to Kopergowng. Emrut Rao resides at Sungumnere about 60 miles north of Poona.

New levies of horse and foot are making here, professedly for the purpose of reinforcing Sindia's army, which has suffered considerably by the destruction of two detachments, and is exposed to further loss by the advance of the heavy artillery, without sufficient support, to the north bank of the Nurbuddah. But Eswunt Rao Holker is more intent on exacting contributions in Sindia's districts than in preventing a junction between the forces of that chief.

No. 423—The Resident reports that Bajirao was wholly incapable of retaining his subordinate members in subjection or of defending his dominions against foreign invasion. This proves that he was slowly being driven to accept British protection.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 26th August 1801.

I received a visit yesterday from Moonshy Gopal Rao, who after mentioning the Peshwa's arrival at Tohnka on the bank of the Godavery where he proposes to remain some days to perform his devotions and to have an interview with Emrut Rao, proceeded to inform me that it was probable His Highness would immediately return to Poona if he could not prevail on his brother to meet him.

Gopal Rao represented the Peshwa as under considerable anxiety at the discontent of Emrut Rao, the difference subsisting between him and the Nizam and the general disposition of the chieftains of the state to disturb his government. The Moonshy added that he had been induced by His Highness expressing these apprehensions, to recommend to him on the day of his departure, in the most earnest manner, to place his sole reliance on the Company for the establishment of his authority and the defence of his dominions, and that the Peshwa appeared much disposed to adopt this advice, but said that he would first endeavour to ascertain the fidelity or disaffection of his brother, which would be determined by the Rao's meeting him with confidence and trusting the safety of his person to his affection and generosity, and if his brother should decline the interview or repair to it with such a force as would indicate a consciousness of disloyalty, he would immediately return to Poona and confer with me for an alliance with the Company.

I encouraged the Moonshy to rely on your Lordship's favorable reception of the Peshwa's overtures for receiving the negotiation on the principles and conditions so often proposed, and endeavoured to confirm him in the opinion which he had expressed to his master by every argument which could apply to his present danger and future security.

Without pretending to judge of the sincerity either of the Peshwa or Gopal Rao in these communications, it is sufficiently apparent that Baajy Rao is wholly incapable of retaining the subordinate members of the state in subjection and of defending his dominions from foreign invasion. He may at length be convinced of this inability, but it is also not improbable that he entertains hopes of maintaining his authority and securing his tranquillity by intrigue and sowing dissensions among his chieftains and in foreign courts, and that the information given to me is calculated to divert your Lordship's attention from such designs. He must however at this time be conscious of his weakness, since Eswunt Jewajee and another disaffected Sirdar have renewed their depredations, and he is not able to collect a force sufficient to suppress them

No. 424—That Bajirao was being utterly disliked and distrusted by all his subordinate chiefs is, in substance, what the Resident conveys to the Governor General in this communication.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 8th September 1801

Since my last address, I have not been informed of any occurrence in this Government deserving your Lordship's attention until yesterday, when Moro Pundit Daumlah, the father of Chimna Appa's wife, and Vassdeo Punt, the Vakeel of Serjajee Gautky, were seized in the city, by orders from the Peshwa and confined in the palace on information given by Chimna Appa himself, of those persons proposing to him to place him on the Musnud by the assistance of the sons of Pursaram Bhow.

The Peshwa had not moved from Tonkha on the 5th instant, but proposed to proceed to Kopergowng in the course of a few days. I understand that he has been disappointed in his expectation of a meeting with Emrut Rao at the former place, but he still relies on the Rao's promise to attend him at the latter.

There are hitherto no appearances of Baajy Rao's present excursion being connected with any exterior relations of his Government, his principal objects are probably to overawe the disaffected and to suppress the renewed insurrections of Jewajee Eswunt on the northern, and of two

other rebellious Sirdars on the eastern frontier. He is not however yet in a condition to undertake the reduction of these insurgent forces contemptible as they are in every respect except that of numbers. He has yet assembled not more than 5,000 horse and foot and the troops of the state repair very tardily and reluctantly to his standard.

Under the weak but oppressive administration of the present Peshwa it is probable that the principal members of the Empire will ere long renounce even the nominal subjection to its head which they still acknowledge, and their general dislike of his character and distrust of his designs will certainly prevent their concurring with him in any measures likely to revive the strength and spirit of the Mahratta nation to such a degree, as would render it formidable to the other great Powers of India.

No. 425—Amritrao is reported to have met Bajirao and informed him that the character, principles and conduct of the present confidants of the Peshwa were disgraceful to his reputation, injurious to his interests and oppressive to his subjects. He advocated an alliance with the Company.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 25th September 1801.

Since my last address, the Peshwa and Emrut Rao have met at Kopergowng and continue together in much apparent confidence and cordiality. They have frequent and long private conferences of which the principal subject is the regulation of the Peshwa's government. His Highness proposes to vest the administration of it in his brother, but the Rao requires such ample powers as Baajy Rao is not likely to concede to any person and, least of all perhaps, to his brother.

The negotiations at Kopergowng occasion great disquietude to the persons to whom the Peshwa at present confides the management of his affairs, Emrut Rao having demanded their dismissal as a preliminary to his acceptance of the office of Minister, stating their characters, principles and conduct as disgraceful to the Peshwa's reputation, injurious to his interests and oppressive to his subjects.

Emrut Rao has also strongly recommended to his brother to conclude the alliance, proposed to him by your Lordship and the Nizam, as the only measure which can produce the complete restoration of his authority and secure the tranquillity of his dominions, and has candidly represented to him the dangers to which both are exposed by the gross misconduct and injustice of his servants and by his own insincerity, which have excited general alarm and distrust throughout the country.

I am afraid that these representations make little or no impression on the mind of Baajy Rao, since he regularly communicates them to Balloo Khoonjir the person most obnoxious to Emrut Rao's displeasure and resentment. It is not very improbable that the Peshwa has no other object in his proposals and professions to his brother than to secure his person by prevailing on him to come to Poona, but the Rao will not fall into the snare, nor accompany the Peshwa without being entirely independent of his power.

There is no appearance hitherto of the Peshwa being occupied in foreign concerns. No agent from Ragojee Bhonsla has yet repaired to his camp, nor has Shedasheo Munkaiser proceeded to Hyderabad. I am informed that His Highness will return at the Dussara and it appears that the principal, if not the only object of his excursion to Kopergowng was to obtain (by whatever means) security against the suspected designs of Emrut Rao.

No. 426—The Resident reports the failure of Bajirao's negotiations with his brother and the secret encouragement the Peshwa gives to both Sindia and Holkar in their contest with each other.

FROM—Wm PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 2nd October 1801.

I am informed that the Peshwa has absolutely rejected the conditions required by Emrut Rao of dismissing Shedasheo Munkasir, Moonshy Gopaul Rao and B Khoonjer as a preliminary to his acceptance of the office of Dewan, and the conferences on this subject are consequently at an end. Baajy Rao and his brother however still reside together with the same appearance of harmony and confidence as before. My information adds that the Peshwa has consented to augment the Rao's Jagheer to which he will soon retire, and that the Peshwa returns to Poona.

I am persuaded that Baajy Rao has never intended to commit the permanent administration of his affairs to Emrut Rao on any terms and that he had no other object in making the overture than to secure a restraint on the person and actions of his brother. I regret the failure of this negotiation, as I believe that E. Rao's personal inclination and political views are favourable to the British connection on the principles and to the extent of your Lordship's plan of alliance with this state.

The Peshwa seems to be pursuing his accustomed policy in the contest between D R Sindia and Eswunt R Holkar by secret encouragement to both parties, but affording assistance to neither, while he expects concessions for the promise of it. He is now engaged in a treaty with Eswunt

Rao to support him against Sindia in his pretensions to the succession of the late Tookojee Holkar, in prejudice of the right of his elder brother Kaushi Rao, in consideration of his relinquishing the possessions of the family in the Deccan, amounting to twenty-five lacks of rupees annual revenue. It is not very probable that any part of this agreement will be fulfilled except the transfer of the country to His Highness. Eswunt Rao also is both able and inclined to obtain possession of it by force if he had not provided the decent pretext of promised aid in return for the cession.

The Peshwa is however, from motives of interest and security, disposed to favour the cause of Eswunt Rao against Sindia, though his fears may restrain him from any ostensible interference in the quarrel. To his unceasing apprehensions of Sindia's power and designs, is now added his dread of the influence of S. Gautky over the mind of that chief and which he knows, will be exerted to its utmost extent for his destruction, since Gautky can in person constantly urge his scheme and indulge his resentment under pretence of securing and aggrandizing the power of Sindia. But alarmed as the Peshwa is at this danger, I apprehend that he will rather trust to his own address and talent for intrigue for diverting it by fomenting the troubles of Sindia's government, foreign and domestic, than resort to the certain means of security which he might derive from an alliance with the Company and its allies.

No. 427—Bajirao is reported as finding his position precarious. Three persons of the Raste family who were being taken to a hill fort for secure confinement, were easily rescued by a few of their followers, thus weakening Bajirao's power to the lowest point.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 12th October 1801.

Since I had the honor to address your Lordship, the Peshwa has deputed a minister to the Court of Nagpore for the especial purpose, as I am informed, of dissuading Ragojee Bhonsla from concluding an engagement now under discussion with Doulut Rao Sindia, for furnishing that chief with a considerable force to act against Eswunt Rao Holkar.

The Peshwa's general policy is adverse to any combination between the great members of the Mahratta State; and his particular view in the contest between Sindia and Holkar is to protract it and avail himself of any advantages which may offer in the progress of it to the ruin or depression of the contending parties. It is to promote those objects that he continues

in his position on the Godavery prepared to act as circumstances may dictate, but as his intentions are well understood, he will probably be the victim of his own duplicity.

But an event has taken place which may divert Baajy Rao's attention from remote and precarious schemes of aggrandizement by fomenting the dissensions of other chieftains, to his own immediate safety. A few days ago, three persons of the Rastah family were by his orders taken from the palace where they had been long in confinement, and sent under a guard of 100 horse and foot, to be conducted for greater security to one of the hill fortresses. On the road, a servant of the Rastah family, with 400 men only attacked the escort, rescued the prisoners and conducted them in safety in a stronghold of his master's in the Kokun. It is supposed that this powerful family will be able to avenge its disgrace by exciting a formidable confederacy against the authority of Baajy Rao. It is generally believed that the charge of traitorous correspondence brought against the Rastahs, was totally unfounded and invented for the sole purpose of seizing their property. The inhabitants of Poona have exulted in the escape of the persons above mentioned without concealment or reserve, which may shew the Peshwa how unfavourable the people in general judge of his character and conduct.

The injury and indignity which have been offered by the Peshwa to the Rastahs, notwithstanding their consanguinity to him, has increased the alarm and discontent, which was before sufficiently excited, of every person in the state who considers himself as an object of his jealousy or rapacity, and his Government is exposed to serious danger from the evident necessity of a combination among the powerful and wealthy for their common safety.

No. 428—Palmer reports that the present situation of the Peshwa appeared most promising for the accomplishment of an alliance between him and the Company, as he was threatened from all sides by powerful chiefs. The appointment of Colonel Close to the Residency is reported.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Poona, 24th October 1801.

The Peshwa returned from Kopergowng to one of his gardens near Poona on the 21st at night and came into town yesterday, but does not yet occupy his own house.

Emrut Rao accompanied the Peshwa although until the moment of their departure from Kopergowng, it was given out that the Rao would return to his Jagheer. His unexpected appearance has greatly disconcerted

Baloo Khoonjer and Moonshy Gopal Rao, but the Peshwa holds daily and long consultations with these ministers, and it is not probable that he will be influenced by his brother to remove them.

Gopal Rao informs me that the Peshwa is very uneasy at Sindia's negotiations with the Courts of Hyderabad and Berar. On this communication I observed to the Moonshy, that His Highness might have precluded all apprehension from the power and ambition of Sindia and from every other cause of alarm to his Government by acceding to the alliance so frequently proffered and so urgently enforced by your Lordship and the Nizam, to which Gopal Rao replied that the Peshwa would desire an early interview with me when he would fully explain his situation and views.

I am wholly unapprized of the conditions on which Emrut Rao consented to return with his brother, but whatever concessions may have been mutually or separately made for immediate convenience, I am persuaded that no sincere or lasting confidence will take place; that suspicion and distrust is reciprocal and incurable, and that each will ultimately endeavour to place himself in a state of security from the designs which he apprehends from the other.

The present situation of the Peshwa appears to me to be as promising for the accomplishment of your Lordship's views at this Court, as any crisis which has presented since the opening of the negotiations. He is deeply impressed with a sense of the danger which threatens him from the coalition of Doulut Rao Sindia and Ragojee Bhonsla, and is at the same time apprehensive that he may be deprived of the only certain means left to him of safety by Sindia's overtures to His Highness the Nizam. My utmost endeavours shall be exerted to improve these favourable circumstances to the attainment of the great political objects of the British Government in a connection with the Mahratta State.

I have notified to the Peshwa your Lordship's appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Close to be the Company's Resident at his Court and my expectation of that gentleman's arrival at Poona in the course of a month.

No. 429—Bajirao is reported to be incommoded by boils and fever and alarmed by internal commotions of the Patwardhans, Rastes and other chiefs whom he had provoked by oppression. He cannot avert his ruin.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 31st October 1801.

No transaction in any degree interesting to your Lordship's Government has occurred at this Court since my last address. The Peshwa is so much incommoded by boils attended with fever, that he has not been able to

receive a visit from me, although he has expressed an earnest desire of an early interview.

The complete success which has attended the arms of Doulut Rao Sindia in his conte t with Eswunt Rao Holkar, will probably accelerate the Peshwa's determination on the measures which he may judge advisable, for the preservation of his authority and possessions against the power and rapacity of that chieftain.

Nor is Baajy Rao free from serious alarm of internal commotions from the power and resentment of the families of Pursaram Bhow and Raatah and other chiefs whom he has provoked by oppression, or detached from his interests by the weakness and misconduct of his government. In this perilous situation I think, he must perceive that his ruin cannot be averted, but by acceding to your Lordship's propositions for his being admitted to the benefits of general defensive alliance with the Company and the Nizam. His excessive jealousy and distrust may, however, induce him to try expedients to avoid a connection which, he apprehends, will subject him to dependence or control, until his danger becomes imminent or inevitable.

There is no appearance of disposition in the Peshwa to confide the administration of his affairs to Emrut Rao. These brothers now for the first time occupy separate habitations in the city, though they continue apparently to maintain mutual harmony and affection.

No. 430—Palmer paid a visit to Bajirao at which nothing of importance occurred. He assured the Peshwa that his successor Col. Close would maintain the same harmony towards him.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,
TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 9th November 1801.

I waited upon the Peshwa on the 7th who is still much indisposed and residing in the house of a friend. He told me that the considerable time which had elapsed since we met, and the approach of my departure, made him very anxious to see me, and although he was still unable to sustain a lengthened conversation, he could no longer defer his wish to repeat to me personally his satisfaction at my conduct and his regret at parting with me. He then desired me to represent to your Lordship his sincere desire to improve and perpetuate his friendly and political connection with the British Government, and concluded with expressing a confidence of finding in Colonel Close a disposition to maintain the harmony which subsists between the two Governments and to promote their mutual welfare. I assured him that this confidence would not be misplaced.

Though the Peshwa appeared to be very weak and reduced, I was unwilling to lose the opportunity of learning his sentiments on his present situation and in hope of obtaining this knowledge; I mentioned the success of Sindia's arms against Esswunt Rao Holkar, and remarked on the great increase of power and resources which the former would derive from the acquisition of Holkar's possessions. But Baajy Rao was either unwilling or unable to enter into any discussions and only observed that the dispute between those chieftains having originated in Sindia's family dissensions, would be adjusted when these were reconciled. He then hastily said that as soon as his strength should be a little recruited he would request another visit from me, and in the interval would send Moonshy Gopal Rao to wait upon me, and immediately presented me with the compliment of uttur and betel, the signal for taking leave.

No. 431—This letter reports another interview of Palmer with the Peshwa when an important principle was discussed, whether members of the Maratha confederacy could form separate treaties with the British Government without the consent of the Peshwa. Palmer pointed out that the Bhosla Raja had in 1781 formed a separate understanding with the British.

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 20th November 1801.

I had an interview with the Peshwa on the 17th whom I found attended by no other person than Moonshy Gopaul Rao. His Highness appeared much indisposed and his spirits exceedingly depressed. He entered at once into the subjects of his disquietude at the Court of Hyderabad, the disposition of the minister to resist every claim of this state upon the Nizam, the encouragement given to secret correspondence with its disaffected Sirdars and the reception given to Sindia's overtures for a separate alliance. His Highness contended that this chieftain as a dependent member of the Mahratta Empire had no right to enter into treaty with foreign powers, nor to form any political engagement without the consent of the sovereign; and he relied on your Lordship's justice and regard to the long established friendship between the two Governments for the rejection of a proposal which infringes his prerogative and has for its object the subversion of his authority. He trusted also that the same principles of amity and equity would operate to defeat every project of his enemies and every unjustifiable opposition to his claims on the Government of Hyderabad.

I gave the Peshwa the fullest assurances of your Lordship's inviolable regard to the relations of peace and amity subsisting between him and the Company, and that you would never afford your countenance to any intrigues injurious to his rights or authority, nor give any support to unfounded or unreasonable demands on his Government. I told him that

I did not know your Lordship's sentiments on the specific proposals made in Sindia's name to the Court of Hyderabad, but observed that His Highness could not expect that your Lordship should relinquish the important advantages which had been so often explained to him and in which he was invited to participate, because His Highness had declined to engage in the alliance on the conditions required of him, that the power of the great constituted members of the Mahratta empire to form separate political engagements was not only understood, but had often been acted upon by the British Government in treaties concluded and executed with various chieftains of this State, several of which are still in force without objection or interference from the supreme authority, and so independently of this authority did the Raja of Berar act, that in 1781 when the Peshwa was at war with the English, he concluded a separate peace for himself and his dominions by a treaty with the Governor General and Council, in which he stipulated to give no assistance to the Peshwa. But I further remarked, be the right of Doulut Rao Sindia what it may on the present occasion, His Highness's apprehensions from the exercise of it might be obviated by signifying his own determination to accede to the treaty of general defensive alliance on the terms repeatedly proffered to him.

The Peshwa declined any further discussion and, indeed, was evidently too much dejected to engage in it, and only answered by saying that he would send Moonshy Gopal Rao to confer with me more at large. I could perceive that my intimating a probability of Sindia's overtures being accepted made an instantaneous and deep impression on his mind. He is sufficiently aware of the danger to which he will be exposed by that chief's becoming an ally of the Company and the Nizam, while he himself should be excluded from any claim to their protection and support, and however strong his reluctance may be to resign his pretensions on the Nizam's Government and to admit a British force into his dominions, he will, I think, yield to the necessity of his affairs when he is convinced that they are otherwise irremediable.

No. 432—The Resident reports Bajirao's overtures for an alliance with the Company's Government and for certain modifications of the original terms; "Here," adds Col. Palmer, "my negotiations with this Court must terminate, as Colonel Close will arrive in the course of three or four days, having proposed to leave Bombay yesterday."

FROM—Wm. PALMER,

TO—MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

Poona, 30th November 1801.

Moonshy Gopal Rao visited me again on the 27th in consequence of his report to the Peshwa of our conference on the 21st. He was charged to communicate to me His Highness's consent to subsidize a permanent

force of the Company's infantry to the extent of six battalions, with the corresponding artillery, as offered by your Lordship and engaged to assign territory in Hindustan producing 25 lacs of rupees annual revenue in commutation of the subsidy ; but that the troops should be retained within the Company's dominions at all times, except when the Peshwa should formally require their actual services, and that on every such requisition he would allow a period of one month for the necessary preparation of the troops to march.

Gopal Rao wishing to know my sentiments on these modifications of subsidiary stipulation, before he proceeded to further communication, I observed that although the Peshwa's assent to admit into his service a permanent British force to the extent proposed would be very desirable to your Lordship, I was apprehensive that the conditions which he had annexed to his acceptance of it would, on many considerations, be deemed objectionable. The local situation of the territory proposed to be assigned in lieu of subsidy was very inconvenient, the districts being dispersed and surrounded by and intermixed with the possessions of other chieftains of this state, and not contiguous to those of the Company. I was therefore of opinion that your Lordship would require a transfer of territory in either the Kokun or on the Peshwa's southern frontier; that a net revenue of 25 lacs of rupees would probably cover the expense of the subsidized troops, yet as your Lordship intended on this head to observe strict impartiality between His Highness and the Nazim, he was desirous the subsidy should be regulated by the estimate settled at Hyderabad and the transfer of revenue for the discharge of it conformable thereto, be it more or less than the round sum now offered by the Peshwa. With respect to the last regulation proposed by His Highness, that the ordinary station of the Subsidiary Force should be in the Company's territory, as the suspicious motive which dictated it was too obvious, I opposed it principally on considerations of advantage and security to the Peshwa himself, though I observed that the general interests of the proposed alliance might also suffer materially by the exposure of His Highness to sudden misfortune from the distant situation of the forces of his allies.

When I had finished these observations the Moonshy replied, that he could not encourage the smallest expectation of change in the Peshwa's selection of districts in Hindustan for the discharge of the subsidy. His Highness was willing, Gopal Rao said, to allow 25 lacs annually as the amount of subsidy, but would not, he thought, exceed it, and insisted that while the Peshwa could avail himself of the aid of so considerable a body of the Company's troops, no danger to himself or injury to his allies was to be apprehended from the local position of it which he required.

Gopal Rao then informed me that on another point of former difference, the admission of Ragojee Bhonsla as a member of the general defensive

alliance, the Peshwa would recede so far as to allow the insertion of that Raja's name in the treaty in the manner and to the effect he is included in the treaty of Salbhye. I observed that this concession did not apply to your Lordship's object of accommodating the differences and uniting the interests and securing the tranquillity of the great Powers of the Deccan.

After giving Moonshy Gopal Rao to understand that I was not authorised to conclude a treaty with this State, under the modifications desired by the Peshwa, as above stated, I reminded him that there was another important stipulation on the part of your Lordship to which His Highness had not acceded, and which he had not now brought into discussion, the Company's arbitration of the respective claims of the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad on the basis of the treaty of Mahr and of His Highness the Nazim to a total exemption from Choute

Gopal Rao in answer to this intimation said that the Peshwa had already in the fullest confidence of your Lordship's justice and impartial regard for the peace and welfare of both states, agreed to submit generally his differences with the Nazim to your arbitration, but that the treaty of Mahr having undergone various alterations in letter and spirit by subsequent conventions and transactions, could not be admitted as a basis on which to adjust the existing claims of the two Governments, and that the Choute of this State on the dominions of His Highness, was established beyond doubt or litigation by concession from the Government of Hyderabad, made on the just principles of compromise and equity and confirmed by repeated royal grants. On these points the Moonshy said, the Peshwa adheres to his former offer of general arbitration, as stated in the 13th paragraph of my address to your Lordship dated 29th June, 1799, as well as to all other points which he conceded in the negotiations of that period, and which closed on the 28th of August following

The Moonshy said that the Peshwa would feel the deepest concern at finding that the concessions which he had now offered, were not reconcilable to the instructions on which I was empowered by your Lordship to conclude a treaty with him. But he had no doubt these concessions would appear to your Lordship of such a magnitude, as to evince the sincerity of his disposition to engage in the most intimate union of interests with the British Government and its allies, that he could not make further cessions without a ruinous dereliction of power and property

To this declaration I could only answer, that His Highness was the best judge of what he was able to concede. But on the other hand, it would be important to reflect on what he risked by reducing the allies to the necessity of recurring to such other expedients as are presented to them for the attainment of the great objects of the proposed general defensive alliance

Here my negotiations with this Court must terminate, as Colonel Close will arrive in the course of three or four days having proposed to leave Bombay yesterday. Nothing could afford me so much satisfaction as to have closed my mission with bringing to a successful issue your Lordship's plan and views, in as far as they depended upon this Government, for the security and prosperity of the British Dominions committed to your charge and for the general tranquillity of India. I am to have my last private audience of the Peshwa this evening, when I will make a final effort to convince His Highness of the lasting security, power and prosperity which he will derive from embracing your Lordship's proposals, though I apprehend, that nothing short of imminent and certain destruction will induce him to make concessions which militate with his deep rooted jealousy and prejudices, and of which he thinks that he has already made extraordinary sacrifices.

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